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Cabinet expected to okay Ayalon as GSS head

ON LEVY

THE cabinet is today expected to approve the appointment of former OC Navy Adm. (res.) Ami Ayalon as head of the General Security Service, replacing Carmi Gillon, who announced his retirement last week.

Ayalon is to officially take up the position on March 1. He is expected to begin working soon with Gillon on the transition.

Ayalon held his first working meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Friday. At their short meeting at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, Peres thanked him for accepting the job and reiterated the importance of Ayalon's task in restoring the confidence of the GSS.

Ayalon also met with Gillon on Friday to begin coordinating the transition. Gillon reportedly placed himself at his successor's disposal and promised to give him all the help he needs in taking over the service.

Sources in the GSS said at the weekend that Ayalon does not yet intend to meet with department heads, but would do so later on during the month of transition.

The sources expressed satisfaction at Ayalon's acceptance of the job, saying that, although they do not know him personally, from all they have been able to learn about him he appears to be "the right man at the right time."



Palestinians hold the photograph of slain bomb-maker Yihye Ayyash yesterday at a Ramallah rally in his honor. (AP)

Security sources: Hamas planning revenge attacks for Yihye Ayyash

ON LEVY, JON IMMANUEL and agencies

HAMAS is planning a major terror attack to avenge the killing of Yihye Ayyash, but is likely to refrain from carrying it out until after the Palestinian elections on Saturday, senior defense sources said over the weekend.

The Hamas spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghoshch, spoke to the crowd by phone, urging people not to participate in the Palestinian elections.

The IDF closed Ramallah to Israelis yesterday for security reasons. No time was given for the lifting of the closure.

At a Gaza rally on Friday marking a week since Ayyash's death, Ezzadin Kassam gunmen blamed Hamas for trying to stop them from attacking Israelis and asked why revenge for Ayyash was not taken immediately.

Another speaker addressing the crowd of more than 10,000 in Gaza's Yarmouk Stadium said that Ayyash was indirectly responsible for the death of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

People held up pictures of the terrorist, along with the Koran, and many shouted chants calling for revenge.

"Peres, prepare the coffins, we are coming," they shouted, referring to Prime Minister Peres.

The Hamas spokesman in Jordan, Ibrahim Ghoshch, spoke to the crowd by phone, urging people not to participate in the Palestinian elections.

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Hamas activist Muhsin Abu Eita said that Ayyash helped Rabin's assassin by killing Israelis and "exposing the gap in the security ability of the General Security Service."

Many in the crowd shouted "revenge." They burned flags and gunmen fired in the air as Abu Eita shouted that "the account has not yet been opened. Blood does not come cheap. The Hebrew state and the Mossad will pay a high price."

The reference to the Mossad may imply that Hamas intends to attack Israeli targets abroad.

Israeli Radio reported that two Palestinians were wounded last night in the village of Yatta during clashes with Palestinian police.

The incident took place when the police attempted to round up unauthorized weapons. Fifteen Palestinians were arrested, Reuters reported, including Yatta's former mayor Ismail Abu Hmaid.

Hmaid, who is a candidate in the January 20 Palestinian elections, is suspected of having collaborated with Israel, added Reuters.

Christopher: Very good progress made with Syria

Assad agrees to include military advisers in talks

BATSHEVA TSUR

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher last night expressed pleasure with the "very good progress" made during his meetings with Israeli and Syrian leaders over the weekend.

Speaking after conferring for more than an hour with Prime Minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem, Christopher announced that the Syrians had agreed to broaden the scope of the talks by bringing in a senior military adviser, but not the chiefs of staff.

Israel Radio reported last night that OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan would be joining the Israeli negotiating team.

"Experts will be added where necessary," he said, when asked by reporters why the Syrians had not agreed to include economic or water experts. "Now it's time to discuss the military field."

Christopher said that "the challenges cannot be minimized" but expressed hope the leaders of both countries would "do everything possible to achieve peace this year."

"I am optimistic and hopeful," he said, noting that Israel and Syria have reached "a more meaningful dialogue." He added that the US "would be there at key points... to help."

Christopher repeated his statement, made in Damascus on Friday, that "a new threshold had been crossed" and said the talks will resume next week in Maryland. "This visit [of Christopher]

moved things ahead and things are moving. It's very important progress," Peres said.

"We have a partner for peace talks," Peres said. "But there is a long list of weighty issues" still to be discussed. As for the time factor, Peres said: "Our major concern is not the speed of the negotiations but the content, which will have to face the test of time."

In Damascus on Friday, Christopher said Assad had agreed to continuing seconded talks by a "core group" of negotiators in Wye Plantation in Maryland, combined with periodic visits by himself to the Middle East to confer with Israeli and Syrian leaders.

Last night Peres said that for the first time there is a chance to discuss normalization with the Syrians and to raise the possibility of a comprehensive peace in the region.

He said that for five months the Syrians had not agreed to add a military expert to the delegations.

"There is a change for the better," he said. But he stressed that not all the outstanding issues had been resolved.

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, who met earlier with Christopher, said that only after Christopher's next visit to the region would it become clear if Syria is "a partner for peace," and that patience was required to resolve a 50-year-long dispute.

The negotiations should not be tied to the date of the elections in Israel or the US, he added.

Netanyahu: Stop negotiations, hold early elections, Page 2



Ami Ayalon.

Gore to hold talks in Egypt, Israel

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Vice President Al Gore departs for the Middle East today for separate talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Shimon Peres, it was announced on Friday.

Gore will participate in a meeting of the Joint Economic Council, which is working to develop economic cooperation and trade between Egypt and the United States. He is to depart for Cairo today for talks with Mubarak the next day, and will talk with Peres on Tuesday before returning to Washington on Wednesday.

The trip initially had been planned for December but logistical difficulties delayed it until this month.

Clinton addresses 'Warriors for Peace' during Bosnia visit

ZAGREB (AP) - In a shroud of extraordinary security, President Clinton paid a front-line visit yesterday to American forces in Bosnia, praising the mud-soaked troops as "warriors for peace."

"In Bosnia you came on a mission of peace, a mission for heroes," Clinton declared.

On a slate-gray day, the president visited soldiers in a sandbag bunker at the airfield of the US headquarters in Bosnia. The bunker is located at the end of a road that soldiers named "Sniper Street." The president pinned promotions on five soldiers.

Arriving five hours late because of bad weather, Clinton brought soldiers bags of mail, 200 cases of Coca-Cola and 5,000 chocolate bars.

Secret Service sharpshooters and armed soldiers followed Clinton around the headquarters of Task Force Eagle. Apache gunships patrolled the perimeter of the base and villagers from nearby Dubrave were not allowed anywhere near the site.

Clinton did not venture from the heavily-secured installation to witness damage wrought during nearly four years of war, and his air routes carefully skirted Serb territory.

The president also met with Bosnian, Croatian and Serb leaders to urge them to hold together the fragile peace accord.

The White House said the meeting in Tuzla brought together a mix of religious and ethnic leaders to discuss how to foster peace.

"This was, since the breakup of former Yugoslavia,

via, an unprecedented gathering of leaders from each of the religious and ethnic communities of Bosnia," White House press secretary Mike McCurry said.

"On the diplomatic front, it was the "single most encouraging thing the president saw," McCurry said.

In a speech to nearly 1,000 troops in full combat gear, the president praised the sacrifice of American forces and their allies.

"From the ashes of war in Bosnia, you and they together are raising the torch of a new and undivided Europe," said Clinton, dressed in a bomber jacket and khaki slacks. "Step by steady step, you are making history here in Bosnia."

The troops, their boots and uniforms caked in mud, cheered Clinton. He praised them as "veterans of the Tuzla mud."

"It was nice he came over to let us know he's proud of us," said Specialist Travis Siegler.

His visit was welcomed by some nearby residents, although they were not allowed onto the base. "Clinton cares about the Bosnian people," Mehmed Dedic said.

Clinton opened his trip before dawn in Aviano, Italy - the staging field for all NATO air force operations going into Bosnia. "You are heroes for peace," he told several hundred troops who gathered in the early morning at an airplane hangar.

Mass graves, Page 3

Malaysia allows trade, but no diplomatic ties with Israel

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) - In a major shift in its Mideast policy, Malaysia has decided to lift its trade embargo on Israel, but has no plans for diplomatic relations soon, officials said yesterday.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told reporters the move was in response to Israel's apparent willingness to honor its agreement with the Palestinians.

"If the Palestinians and others can ... I don't see why we cannot gradually restore relations with Israel," he said.

Asked if the relations he referred to meant diplomatic ties, Mahathir said: "Not yet, as long

as it does not resolve its problems with the PLO and Syria, it is a bit difficult for us to establish diplomatic relations with Israel."

Malaysia, which is predominantly Moslem, has had no ties with Israel and had also banned travel to Israel.

International Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz told reporters that the cabinet last week had agreed to allow trade ties between the two countries.

Government officials said allowing trade ties meant lifting the trade embargo, but did not mean establishing a trade office in Israel.

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Zvilli: Call early elections if no progress made with Syria

IF there is no tangible progress in the talks with Syria very soon, then there is no option but to call early elections, Labor Party Secretary-General Nissim Zvilli said over the weekend.

His statements are regarded as intended not only for local consumption, but to prod the Syrians into realizing that the time at the government's disposal is extremely limited.

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu said last night that he would support early elections "on condition that the government suspend the talks with Syria until after the elections. What we have now is a hasty process to get some sort of a deal at any price as fast

as possible.

"Each day that this goes on is yet another retreat and another attempt to beg Assad to please take some more territory. The end result of this is a return to the shores of the Kinneret and the public ought to be told this."

Netanyahu added that "early elections without halting the talks with Syria will be just a cynical ploy to exploit the Rabin assassination."

Tasmet plans to submit a bill calling for the dissolution of the Knesset and the advancing of elections to June 4, it is reported. If the bill fails in a vote, no party will be able to submit such a bill again for six months.

Zvilli's statements echo earlier pronouncements by Prime Minister Shimon Peres, which in effect placed the timing of Israel's next elections in Syrian hands.

Peres has said that he is against advancing the elections so long as a real chance exists for reaching an agreement with the Syrians. Zvilli approached the subject from a different direction, though he reached the ideological conclusion.

"If we see that the negotiations with the Syrians do not soon lead us anywhere, then early elections are a must," he said.

"There must be more in these talks than just an improvement in atmosphere. Without peace with

SARAH HONIG

Syria, this government has, in effect, reached the end of its usefulness and should go to the people. "Its role is over, if in the time left it cannot achieve a deal with Syria."

Labor sources agree that a decision on early elections must be reached by mid-February at the very latest. It takes several months to put the cumbersome bureaucratic elections machine in full operation and if a late May or early June polling day is contemplated, then a decision must be made soon.

Labor does not want elections in the summer, believing that

well-heeled Labor voters tend to leave the country during July and August.

Early June is also considered the deadline for early elections, because this time there will be a direct election for the prime minister, which may necessitate a second round two weeks after the first.

Labor must make sure that the runoff is also scheduled before July.

Likud Knesset faction chairman Moshe Katsav yesterday called on the government to "halt the talks with Syria until after the elections. It is unacceptable that such delicate talks on issues of life and death for Israel be conducted

with a stopwatch and with an air of a mad rush to get something signed before elections.

"The Syrians will realize the pressure in which the Israeli delegation has put itself and are exploiting this," he said.

Meanwhile, the deadline for candidates for the Labor Party leadership primary is tomorrow. Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet has said he might run but has not yet formally declared himself.

Some in Labor say he has not been able to collect the 300 signatures he needs to put his name on the ballot. Other sources speak of considerable pressure to dissuade him from a hopeless quest for the

number-one slot. These sources noted that while Shetreet does not stand a ghost of a chance against Peres, he might end up slogging mud to the Likud's delight.

Shetreet is due to announce his decision late today or tomorrow.

He is reportedly motivated by a sense of personal slight. His relations had been difficult with late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin as well, but he was considered closer to Rabin. With Peres there is no rapport whatsoever.

It is a foregone conclusion in Labor that if Peres forms the next government, it will not include Shetreet, rendering Shetreet a minister with nothing to lose.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat welcomes US Secretary of State Warren Christopher to Gaza yesterday. (Reuters)

Christopher hails Arafat moves against terrorism

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher woo a fresh commitment from Yasser Arafat yesterday to stem political violence by Palestinian groups and hailed "important steps" the PLO chief had taken.

"I was very pleased this morning to have chairman Arafat emphasize his complete commitment to combating terrorism in all the territories of the West Bank and Gaza," Christopher said after a one-hour meeting

with Arafat in Gaza.

"The chairman has been speaking out against terrorism and has been taking very important steps to work with authorities in the region to ensure that violence and terrorism shall be kept to a minimum," he told a news conference.

A US State Department report last month found that Arafat's moves had helped to avert violence although it criticized him for appearing to support terror-

ism in some speeches to Palestinian audiences.

Arafat did not mention the issue at the news conference and evaded a question about the January 5 assassination of Hamas bomb-maker Yihye Ayyash.

His meeting with Christopher at a Palestinian VIP center about 100 meters south of the Erez checkpoint focused largely on the Palestinian elections due to be held on Saturday.

Arafat said he had asked Chris-

topher "to facilitate for us problems with the Israelis concerning Hebron and other places".

Christopher called the elections, which will be monitored by international observers, including an American team led by former president Jimmy Carter, a "historic opportunity" for the Palestinians but said they must be free and fair.

The two men also discussed Western aid to the Palestinians. (Reuters)

Golan residents go high-profile

DAVID RUDGE

SCORES of people took part in demonstrations at road junctions throughout the country on Friday afternoon in solidarity with Golan residents opposed to any withdrawal from the region.

The protest vigils marked what organizers described as the resumption of the public campaign to keep the region under Israeli rule.

Banners and placards proclaiming "The country is with the Golan" and "Peace with the Golan" were once again in evidence after a break in the protests following the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Golan Residents Committee spokesman Uri Heitner said they intended to stage similar demon-

strations, within the framework of the law and democratic principles, every two or three weeks.

The committee, in conjunction with the Third Way Movement, is also planning a massive information campaign designed to attract tens of thousands of people to visit the Golan during Tu B'Shvat next month.

"There will be organized trips and site visits as well as other attractions and events, including lectures about [Jewish] roots on the Golan," said Heitner.

He sharply criticized Finance Minister Avraham Shohat who on Friday reportedly called for measures that would require any

new residents going to live on the Golan to sign a commitment that they would not later claim for compensation in the event of a withdrawal and the evacuation of communities.

"The finance minister, who swore an oath of allegiance to the state and the laws of the Knesset should remember that the Golan is part of Israel, the same as any other area," said Heitner.

"He has no right to differentiate between citizens and harm those who have decided to build their homes on the Golan," he added.

Heitner said that Golan residents are determined to stay and to develop communities and absorb newcomers.

Likud will 'unmask' Labor before PA poll

LIAT COLLINS

THE Likud has planned several activities this week leading up to the Palestinian Authority elections scheduled for Saturday.

MK Yehoshua Matza, chairman of the Likud secretariat, said he aimed at "revealing the government's true intentions: to withdraw from Jerusalem as well."

The Likud is scheduled to hold an emergency session in Jerusalem this week, "aimed at taking

the mask off the government's intention to strengthen Yasser Arafat's standing at the expense of Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem," according to Matza. The party is particularly concerned that allowing Arabs to vote in eastern Jerusalem weakens Israel's sovereignty there.

The Likud faction is also planning to bring the bill setting an

80-MK majority for concessions on Jerusalem to a final reading this week in the Knesset.

The bill passed the first two readings against the government's will after a parliamentary struggle last year. The Likud is hoping that some coalition MKs will support this reading and help it pass.

Both the coalition and the opposition are readying themselves for the vote.

Court petitioned over PA balloting in Jerusalem

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice is to hear two petitions today against allowing voting in Jerusalem for the upcoming Palestinian Authority council elections.

The petitions - one by former Likud city councilman Elisha Peleg and the other by Likud members Zalman Shoval and MK Yehoshua Matza - argue that allowing voting in Jerusalem impinges on Israeli sovereignty in the city, and therefore violates the Basic Law: Jerusalem, the Capital of Israel.

While legal experts have said that absentee balloting for the PA council in Jerusalem would not affect Israeli sovereignty, the actual election procedures do not in any way resemble absentee ballot

ing, the petitions said. For instance, Peleg noted, the balloting envelopes will not require a stamp, and will be marked with the PA's symbol.

An even more serious problem, said Shoval and Matza, is that eastern Jerusalem residents can also be elected to the council, and Jerusalem is listed in the interim agreement with the PLO as one of the 16 voting "constituencies" for the council. This implies that Jerusalem is geographically a part of the region governed by the PA, and therefore seriously infringes on Israeli sovereignty, they said.

Since the High Court has held that Basic Laws are constitutional

in nature, ordinary legislation is not allowed to contradict them, the petitions argued. Therefore, they said, either the Knesset should be forbidden to pass a law enabling the elections, which is due to come up for its final reading on Tuesday, or, if the law does pass, it should be declared invalid.

Both petitions also noted that any claim made by the PA to Jerusalem via the voting procedure is strengthened by the fact that PA activity already takes place in the city. Peleg listed the fact that Jibril Rajoub's security force is given free reign in the capital, while Shoval and Matza pointed to eight official PA institutions in Jerusalem.

Do the Christians benefit from a quota?

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS '96

JON IMMANUEL

ONE of the peculiarities of the Palestinian election is that Christians are not competing with Moslems for seats, but only with other Christians. In Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Bethlehem - where most Christians are concentrated - 26 Christian candidates will be chasing five seats allotted to them, while 105 Moslem candidates will be chasing the other 13 seats.

Some candidates are emphasizing their Christian backgrounds and some are not. Hanan Ashrawi hardly mentions it. Her particular target is women and she knows that, to win even one of Jerusalem's two Christian seats out of the seven Jerusalem seats, she must pick up a substantial number of Moslem votes.

Human rights lawyer Jonathan Kuttab, who is an Anglican - a tiny minority of a minority - emphasizes his Christian faith and his ties with Christian groups, believing his forthrightness will enhance his chances with Moslem voters, especially in refugee

camps where he is known for his work on behalf of prisoners.

"I take my religion very seriously," says Kuttab. "It motivates my whole life. It is why I am running in this election."

Since Christians are but 5 percent of the voters, he will be lucky to win one of the two seats which are likely to go to Ashrawi and Emil Jarjous, a Fatah candidate. Businessman, newspaper editor, and former senior peace activist Hanna Siniora, with a larger family base, is also in the running.

Kuttab has made it clear that if he comes in third among the Christians, but among the top seven candidates overall, he will demand a seat and take legal proceedings if he is denied one.

"The election law is clear on that. There is no logic in limiting Christian representation. There is no issue of assuring Moslem

representation. There is an issue of assuring Christian representation," he says.

On the quota issue he is again in a tiny minority. The Central Election Commission insists that Christians will receive no more than two seats, however popular the Christian candidates turn out to be. "Just as there is a quota for Christians, there is also a quota for Moslems," said CEC member and election law drafter Ali Safarini.

Until the election law was passed, it was thought Christians would have the option of running for the Christian seat or on their own merit simply by declaring themselves beforehand. But now they have no choice.

The Christian candidates, as opposed to the Christian religious leaders, are not particularly happy about the quota system, says Kuttab, although it guarantees them six seats (including one in Gaza City) out of 88, more than their proportion in the population. It indicates some religious openness. For example, when women demanded 30% of the seats, far less than their propor-

tion in the population, the CEC turned them down flat.

The reason for the quota - modeled on the Jordanian system - was to ensure that Christian candidates are not wiped out. However, after the women's vote, the support that Christian candidates will get from Moslems is another unknown factor.

Palestinian society has been more influenced than Jordan by its Christian population and voting may not be along sectarian lines. People stress they will vote for candidates with a record of contributing to the "national struggle."

Fatah seems to know this. In Bethlehem, both Fatah candidates are Christian - although Christians are only 35-40% of the voting population. In addition, 12 more Christian independents are chasing seats there.

One unresolved issue is whether Christian candidates will be identified as such on the ballot. On the other hand, in towns where there is no quota and virtually no Christian population, there is nothing preventing Christians from taking their chances, running and winning on their merits. This is the fourth article in a series on the Palestinian elections.

With deep sorrow we mourn the passing of

Dr. LESLIE KAY

A dear man

Mourned by:
Beatrice Kay, Netanya
Shalev Family, Omer
Tadmor Family, Netanya



Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem

mourns the passing of

JOSEPH GELFMAN

A Friend and Supporter.
Sincere condolences to his family.

We deeply mourn the untimely passing of our dearly beloved close friend and mentor:

Mr. ISRAEL SADAN ישראל סדן

Founder and President of the Midrashi Noam, Pardess Chana and Kfar Saba.

An inspiring leader in the educational field who devoted 50 years to ensuring an unparalleled legacy to present and future generations.

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مركز التجميل

Mandela tells Afrikaners to accept new system

News agencies
SKEERPOORT, South Africa

SOUTH African President Nelson Mandela yesterday sharply attacked a group formed to protect Afrikaner rights, accusing them of trying to turn the clock back to apartheid.

"Some of the recent statements in the name of the Foundation for Equality before the Law are seen in an extremely negative light by the majority of people in South Africa," Mandela told a meeting of an Afrikaner youth group in Skeerpoort, 40 km west of Johannesburg.

"They create the impression that one has here to do with attempts to retain the unjust advantages from which the Afrikaners benefited in the past," said Mandela, whose African National Congress won South Africa's first all-race elections in April 1994.

Mandela said the group's criticism of the Truth Commission which is to probe apartheid-era human rights abuses was "extremely unfortunate."

"It leaves the impression of an attempt to mobilize people against the commission through a psychosis of fear," he said. "You should refuse to be drawn into projects which send the message that Afrikanerdom today should be equated with defence of human rights violations and with the defence of white privilege in a sea of poverty, with opposition to democratic rule."

The Foundation, known by its Afrikaans acronym SGR, held a gathering in Pretoria earlier yesterday where speakers including former police commissioner General Johan van der Merwe accused Mandela's government of discriminating against Afrikaners in violation of the new constitution.

They gathered 2,000 strong at an open-air meeting, all once-privileged whites now complaining of racial discrimination in a black-led South Africa. But the sight of organizers hoisting the country's new flag in a gesture to national unity broke their own.

"Take down that kaffir (nigger) flag!" shouted a knot of extremists, clad in khaki with pistols at their hips. "If you raise that flag here today, blood will be spilled!"

To a few cheers, one man ripped the flag off a tree while another held a cigarette lighter to it.

In a shouting tussle, organizer Theo de Jager wrestled the flag back, walked to the podium and delivered a speech as the protesters stormed out. Sticking to his prepared text, he didn't miss a beat.

"It's nice we could get together here today to look each other in the eye," de Jager said.

The flag was folded and put away. But not the divide among Afrikaners, descendants of 17th-century Dutch settlers and the ruling class under apartheid, in reacting to their loss of power since Mandela became South Africa's president nearly two years ago.

The vast majority of the 3 million Afrikaners accept Mandela's endless gestures of reconciliation and are making the best of the new system. Right-wingers among them organized a political rally at a shady grove in Pretoria, an Afrikaner stronghold.

Speakers accused Mandela of belittling the Afrikaans language by reducing its use on television and in schools, discriminating against Afrikaners in employment, and unfairly prosecuting police and soldiers who enforced white-minority rule. They threatened court challenges and strikes, but not violence.

De Jager said he supported the new system but was "sick of everything going wrong in the country being blamed on apartheid."

Mandela's has skillfully seduced conservatives like de Jager away from the extremists, increasingly isolating neo-Nazi elements and making a race war extremely unlikely.

Extremist Afrikaners meanwhile want out of South Africa completely and threaten war if they don't get their own state.

They can't agree on the borders, but share the belief that South Africa comprises different tribally-based peoples unable to live together.

Such ideas underpinned apartheid rule. It became clear yesterday how far they have fallen.

A few hours before the political rally, 150 people arrived for a dawn prayer meeting at Afrikanerdom's greatest shrine, the mammoth Voortrekker Monument. It celebrates 19th-century pioneers who battled Zulu warriors to settle the interior.



A released Serb POW and his daughter embrace yesterday in Belgrade after he arrived with a group of 110 others. A total of 450 Krajina Serbs were released by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman before the New Year. (Reuters)

NATO offers to help look for mass graves in Bosnia, but not just yet

News agencies
SARAJEVO

NATO said yesterday it would help investigate reports of mass graves in Bosnia if asked by international organizations, but that it was too busy with military tasks to do so immediately.

The issue is important because of reports that the Bosnian Serbs have hidden up to 8,000 bodies in mineshafts in northwestern Bosnia. The United States also says there are mass graves near Srebrenica, a Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia which fell to the Serbs last June.

NATO spokesman Captain Mark van Dyke told reporters the alliance-led peace force would help escort officials from the UN war crimes tribunal and other organizations to sites where mass graves have been reported, if asked by them to do so.

But another spokesman, Brigadier Andrew Cumming, said the NATO peace force in Bosnia was currently preoccupied with making sure the former warring parties withdrew their forces from zones of separation.

This is due to be completed in less than a week's time, by January 19. Cumming said help with investigations of mass graves was not one of NATO's primary tasks in Bosnia.

"We can't afford it at the moment...if we divert in too many directions, we will not achieve our task...and we will lose credibility," said Cumming.

He declined to say when NATO might be able to offer help.

For now, it looks unlikely that the Serbs will allow civilian access to the disused mine near the town of Ljubija in northwest Bosnia. Reporters who arrived at the scene were turned away by Serb guards.

Any delay in investigating claims of mass graves could allow the Serbs or others to move or destroy evidence needed by the UN

war crimes tribunal in The Hague - which has already indicted Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic and his military commander General Ratko Mladic.

US Defense Secretary William Perry told the *New York Times* in an interview published yesterday that NATO would protect human rights investigators searching for evidence of massacres.

Graham Blewitt, deputy prosecutor with the UN war crimes tribunal, said the court had long been aware of the allegations about Ljubija mine and that it wanted access to the area.

The United States has accused the Bosnian Serbs of having murdered some 4,000 Muslims from Srebrenica in what, if true, would be the single worst atrocity in Europe since World War II. The Serbs have reportedly buried the victims in mass graves in the area and barred access to foreign investigators.

President Clinton also may have been in Bosnia, but he hasn't seen Bosnia. When he flew into this US base near Tuzla yesterday, he saw one of the destruction wrought by the 3½ years of war he credited his soldiers for ending.

He didn't see houses with roofs burned or blasted away, or the roads laced with mines and scarred by tank tracks and shrapnel. Tuzla is out one of areas most ravaged by warfare, although it has suffered through years of grinding poverty.

Clinton also didn't meet the Bosnian people. While Clinton's speech to 850 US soldiers was broadcast on television worldwide, Bos-

nians were not permitted anywhere near the US base. A cordon of police blocked movement in and out of Tuzla city, some 20 km from the base.

It was a simple question of security, said Bosnian police, about a dozen of whom were stationed up and down the main street.

Another 160 or so were stationed along the potholed country road north to Tuzla, and perhaps 50 more down the road in the other direction.

Even on the coldest days, when nothing much is going on, a steady stream of Bosnians stand vigil outside this US base, some 20 km outside Tuzla. Men, young and old, looking for jobs. Wide-eyed kids gawking at tanks as if they were oversized toys.

But yesterday, the only Bosnians in sight were a few women waiting on an early-morning bus to market and a few neighborhood stragglers passing by quickly.

Before dawn, Hatidza Dedie was among a half-dozen women waiting in the mud across the street from a main base entrance. Clinton's arrival suited them fine, but they had more pressing things on their minds.

"I'm hoping that the bus will be able to come. I am going to market in Tuzla with cream and cheese to sell," she said. "I'm just trying to earn some money. All of this is quite good, but in my family of five no one has a job. This is our only means of support."

Though perhaps a little disappointed, residents were sanguine. After four years of war, police orders and prohibitions are a matter of routine.

"Very often I am in front of the gate," said Muhamed Dedie, who lives near the base. "I would like to see the president, but it seems I won't be one of the lucky ones."

Amnesty: Ban military helicopter sales to Turkey

ANKARA - Amnesty International today called for an immediate ban on helicopter sales to Turkey, claiming they were used against civilians in the army's fight against Kurdish rebels.

It was the latest Western criticism of Turkey's military methods in combating the rebels. Rights groups have accused Turkey of forcibly evacuating villages in the troubled southeast. Turkey has denied allegations of human rights violations.

The 11-year-old war against autonomy-seeking rebels has claimed 20,000 lives.

France, Germany, Italy, Russia and the United States have sold military helicopters to Turkey in the 1990's. Companies from France, Russia and the United States continue to bid for more orders, Amnesty said.

"Governments of supplier countries are co-responsible for the use of arms that they are producing and selling. Financial benefits on the one side of the chain do not justify contributing to unjustified and illegal killing on the other," Amnesty said in a statement issued in London.

Meanwhile, Turkish conservative leader Mesut Yilmaz yesterday poured cold water on a coalition offer from the Islamist Welfare Party and urged a secular governing alliance.

But Yilmaz did not completely rule out going into government with the Islamists, who came first at general elections last month with 158 members in the 550-seat parliament.

"There are big differences between our programme and manifesto and those of the Welfare Party (RP)," he told reporters after meeting Islamist leader Necmettin Erbakan.

"It would be very difficult to reach agreement on some of these issues," he said.

He said he wanted to try to forge a coalition with caretaker Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's True Path Party before holding any more coalition talks.

"There's a greater possibility of us coming to an agreement with the True Path Party's programme and basic targets," he told a news conference.

Yilmaz and Ciller, who flatly refused a coalition offer from the Islamists this week, have been trying to set up a conservative coalition with the backing of the left to thwart Welfare.

But a dispute over who would be prime minister in a coalition between them has hindered their attempt, to the frustration of the business community.

Yilmaz insisted that he could not serve under Ciller, Turkey's first woman prime minister who governed for more than two years until the December 24 polls.

"If Mrs Ciller comes to us with a coalition offer that includes her as prime minister, then she will be responsible for the sabotage" of the planned alliance, he said.

The two conservative parties have 276 MPs between them. (Agencies) (Turkey blames Europe, Page 4)

Ex Lisbon mayor confident before Portugal vote

LISBON (AP) - Former Premier Anibal Cavaco Silva, trailing in polls before today's presidential elections, warned yesterday of a "pink" threat if Socialist Jorge Sampaio wins.

A victory for former Lisbon mayor Sampaio, following a Socialist win in October's general elections, would give Portugal a government and president of the same political party for the first time since democracy was restored in 1974.

Final opinion polls last weekend gave Sampaio a 4 percent to 15 percent lead over Cavaco Silva, who headed three center-right governments for a decade until his Social Democrats lost the October elections.

Although latest predictions showed Cavaco Silva closing the gap, Sampaio was still the favor-

ite, especially after two other leftist candidates withdrew and endorsed him.

In interviews published in yesterday's weekly *Expresso*, Sampaio seemed quietly confident of victory, while Cavaco Silva issued a last minute warning not to allow the Socialists to dominate politics.

"With everything pink, I don't see anything good ahead for Portugal," the former premier said. "If we have the total concentration of powers in Portugal, we could see intolerance and arrogance."

Sampaio said he was "as confident as at the start of the campaign," and hadn't even considered what he would do if he lost.

Since Portugal's democracy was restored by a 1974 bloodless military coup, voters have viewed the presidency as a counter-

weight to government, always electing a head of state of a different political color than the dominant party in parliament.

In a decade-long tenure as president, Socialist Mario Soares kept Cavaco Silva's government in check by vetoing legislation or criticizing what he considered "excesses" of its absolute majority.

Constitutionally, Portugal's government holds most of the executive power, but the president's role is more than merely ceremonial.

The president can dissolve Parliament and dismiss the government, veto laws or refer them to parliamentary or Supreme Court review. He has wide emergency powers and is commander in chief of the armed forces.

Soares, an affable defender of

civil rights and tolerance, must step down after two consecutive terms in office.

Some say Cavaco Silva's experience as prime minister makes him more prepared for the job. But he is burdened with a legacy of unpopularity and an economic slump that hit his government in recent years.

At a final Sampaio rally last night in central Lisbon, Prime Minister Antonio Guterres urged a Socialist win, calling Sampaio "the natural heir of Mario Soares. And like Mario Soares, Jorge Sampaio is a symbol of democracy."

"The majority of the Portuguese showed that they wanted change in the Oct. 1 elections," he said. "The best way to ensure that change is to vote for Jorge Sampaio."

Japanese PM chats with astronaut

TOKYO (AP) - Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto spoke with Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata aboard the space shuttle Endeavor yesterday to wish him success.

In a occasionally televised exchange, Hashimoto told of his own fascination for space.

"I love science fiction, myself," he said from Tokyo. "In fact, in the story I'm reading now, it looks like mankind is just about to make it to Andromeda."

The prime minister then showed a drawing to the cameras and explained that it was a picture of a space rocket Wakata had drawn on the back of a test during elementary school. Hashimoto apparently got the drawing from Wakata's family.

"How does it feel to have fully realized a childhood dream like that?" the prime minister asked.

"I feel like a very happy man," Wakata said. "I had always had a vague wish, but that was during a time when only US and Soviet astronauts could go into space. It was out of reach."

"I'm especially happy now that people from more and more countries are becoming able to do it."

Wakata has become something of a celebrity in Japan. A crowd of 1,200 people gathered at Wakata's home outside of Tokyo on Thursday to watch live coverage of the broadcast and cheer him on.

Another major storm hits US eastern seaboard

NEW YORK (AP) - A storm stretching from the South to New England served up a dangerous mix of snow and freezing rain, heaping more misery on Easterners still stuck in the aftermath a blizzard earlier this week.

Friday's storm made roads and runways slippery and closed schools and offices in much of the East, which was blanketed in up to 90 cm of snow on Sunday and Monday.

At least seven deaths were blamed on the latest storm, adding to the more than 100 fatalities caused by the weekend's blizzard.

In Pittsburgh, two buses collided head-on on a snow-covered highway, killing one person and injuring at least 52.

Washington's Dulles International Airport closed briefly after a jet skidded while taxiing. No one was hurt.

The lure of an ice-covered South Carolina pond led to the deaths of two boys, aged 11 and

8, on Friday when they slipped through into the frigid water.

About 10 people were injured in a supermarket roof collapse while one person was slightly injured in the collapse of another store roof. Both happened on New York's suburban Long Island and were attributed to the accumulation of ice and snow.

The ceiling of the oldest black church in New York City's Harlem section collapsed Friday, destroying much of the sanctuary area and covering the landmark building with soot and debris. Church officials estimated damage at more than \$1.5 million.

"The weight of the snow or the driving wind are probably to blame," said Emily Frye, a life-long member of St. Philip's Episcopal Church. "I'm in shock and the congregation is devastated."

Potomac Mills shopping mall just outside Washington was officially closed early yesterday after security guards noticed the roof was sagging due to heavy

snowfall.

Keven McGee of Prince William Fire Department said the mall, one of the biggest in the United States, would re-open only when structural engineers had determined the area to be absolutely safe.

However, there was some relief for travelers yesterday. Airports and public transport systems were open following a week of disruption that left thousands stranded. Museums also took advantage of the warmer weather to welcome tourists.

In Washington D.C., hordes of

private contractors with massive snow ploughs were brought in to clean up the city.

Crews focused on digging out the business and government district first. The federal government is due to reopen tomorrow after being closed for three weeks, first due to a hudget dispute and then because of the snowfalls.

The director of public works in the capital, Larry King, told NBC television his crews would move out into residential areas as soon as possible, but appealed for patience.

Egypt sends more militants to gallows

CAIRO (Reuters) - An Egyptian military court yesterday sentenced six Moslem militants to death for plotting to overthrow the government of President Hosni Mubarak and install a strict Islamic state.

The military court, located in the army harrack of Heikstep on the outskirts of Cairo, sentenced 12 other militants to jail, many with hard labor, and acquitted six others, court sources said.

The defendants, known as al-Aedoon min al-Sudan (Returnees from Sudan), were accused of possessing arms, explosives and detonators and of receiving military training in Pakistan, Sudan and Afghanistan to carry out "terrorist operations" in Egypt, kill officials and blow up the country's installations.

The 24 men were arrested in June while trying to re-enter Egypt and are allegedly members of the violent group al-Gama'a al-Islamiya (Islamic Group).

Egyptian newspapers said in October the 24 were able to identify from photographs those who tried to kill President Mubarak in Addis Ababa last June because they had met them before at a training camp in southern Khartoum.

The official *al-Ahram* newspaper said the men confessed they were trained in Sudan by prominent fugitive militant leader, Mostafa Hamza.

The militants, on trial since December, said Sudan provided them with a training camp, a special plane to facilitate their internal movements and apartments in Khartoum, al-Ahram added.

The Egyptian Interior Ministry has twice in the past month accused Sudanese officials on the border of helping Egyptian militants sneak into the country to carry out violent acts.

Sudao has denied involvement in the assassination bid and refuted accusations that it shelters Egyptian militants.

Muharak began referring Gama'a members for trial in military courts in 1992 to ensure swift and harsh punishment after the group launched a bloody campaign to overthrow his government and install a strict Islamic state.

Egypt's military courts have sentenced 67 militants since 1992, 47 were executed and four were still on the death row.

Jakarta fire leaves 12,000 homeless

JAKARTA (AP) - A huge fire raged through a slum area in northern Jakarta, injuring three people but leaving at least 12,000 homeless, news reports said yesterday.

The fire began while most of the residents in Muara Baru in the district of Penjaringan, were saying their Moslem Friday prayers. The flames destroyed about 2,000 huts and small houses, said the official Antara news agency.

The fire was believed to be started by kerosene stove explosion.

The evening daily *Suara Pembaharuan* said at least 12,000 people were left homeless by the fire. It said three residents helping firefighters extinguish the flames were injured.

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Arutz 7, 711 AM at 12:10 a.m.

Turkish deputy minister: Europe to blame for Islamic Party's success

TURKEY'S allies held their breath last week as they waited to see how Islamic leader Necmettin Erbakan would fare in his bid to form a coalition government, following the inconclusive elections which nonetheless assured his Welfare Party of 158 seats in the 500-seat parliament.

Reams of gloomy analyses produced abroad pondered the apparent upsurge of Islamic fundamentalism in the one state that has been regarded as a model for the difficult task of reconciling the all-embracing religious laws of Islam with the values of secular democracy.

As President Suleyman Demirel was tasking Erbakan with forming a coalition this week, a deputy Turkish foreign minister, Onur Oymen, was visiting Israel for high level political consultations.

If Oymen was gloomy about his country's future, he showed no sign of it as he gave a relaxed interview to *The Jerusalem Post*

in his fifth-floor suite in the capital's King David Hotel.

He also was quite certain where the blame lies for increased support for the Welfare Party - and it is not in Turkey.

Asked if the spiritual influence of Turkey's great modernizer, Kemal Ataturk, was at last beginning to fade, Oymen laughed at the very idea such a question should be asked.

"Not at all, not at all," he replied. "There must be no more wrong analyses of what is happening. The basic lines of our constitutional philosophy are set. Like Israel, Turkey is one of the most important democratic cultures in this region and nobody should fear for its democratic future and its secular nature."

"In all democratic countries there are mainstream parties and there are small parties. Welfare got 21 percent of the vote. Welfare was twice in government in the past and never even attempted to change Turkey's system.

You must not consider this party outside the constitutional state."

But, he was asked, is it not a fact that Erbakan made some very harsh comments during the campaign? Did he not vow to seek an Islamic NATO and reject the European Union (EU)? Did he not revert to old anti-Israeli "Zionist, imperialist conspiracy" charges.

Oymen made a dismissive gesture with a broad grin.

"This party and the voters were reacting to some very nasty criticism emanating from some European institutions."

He repeated the comment for emphasis and added: "Europe is the cause of the protest vote. This is very serious. Turks are very angry and humiliated and their votes showed it."

"They have suffered unfair and unnecessary criticism, not just of the government, but of their culture, their aspirations. Turkey has long wanted to join the EU and has just made an important

INTERVIEW

THOMAS O'DWYER

customs union with Europe. Yet here we have some very good people in Europe saying Turkey is not European, it must never join. They say the EU should be a Christian club and they don't want Moslems.

"Europe chose the Welfare Party, not Turks - there is no major internal criticism of the Turkish system. Constructive criticism from outside is OK, especially from the EU when we aspire to join, but unfair criticisms that really hurt the national feelings and pride of the nation are not," Oymen said.

"Turks look at the (EU) rush to bring in the east Europeans and they ask 'so why them and not us?' Have we torn down one iron curtain in Europe only to build a cultural iron curtain in its place?"

Oymen said he wished some European countries showed some of the understanding of Turkey that Turkish officials find in Israel.

"Israel and Turkey really represent one of the few very good relationships in this region," he said. "I thanked Prime Minister (Shimon) Peres for his support on the EU customs union. It really was very much appreciated."

"In fact, relations with Israel are excellent in every manner. The level of overall trade, for example, last year jumped to \$400 million dollars from \$300 million. About 400,000 Israeli tourists visited Turkey and they are really very welcome and very popular there."

Oymen said Turkey's support for the Middle East peace process was unwavering and Ankara would offer any help it could to move it forward.

However, he was not scheduled to meet any Palestinian officials - "this trip was specifically

planned to see my Israeli friends."

Asked for his views on the tardy Syrian track, he paused.

"Our relations with Syria are, neighborhood. We keep them advised of our intentions and our trade is good - about twice that of Israel's."

"But Syria simply cannot survive by continuing to have problems with all its neighbors. We must all strive for a Middle East free of violence and totalitarianism," Oymen said. He said Syria continued to keep a Kurdish terrorist faction among others in Damascus and this was not helpful in creating a climate of trust.

"I urge Syria to take more effective measures against terrorism. Its contribution will be more valuable if it is free of the stigma of supporting terrorism. It's time for the Syrians to take their full place in the community of nations in this region."

Oymen served in Cyprus in 1974 - the year Turkey invaded

and occupied the northern third of the island after a dangerous right-wing coup engineered by the military junta then ruling Greece - and he joined with enthusiasm in a lively discussion of the continuing failure to solve the island's division.

Most of his comments were off the record, but he said: "Israel and Turkey are not the only democracies in the region - there are two more, Turkish Cyprus and Greek Cyprus. It is time the world recognized that these are two equal partners in the peace process and end the ridiculous international embargo against the Turkish Cypriots."

Nudged by aides that he was running late for an official dinner, he rose, grinned and tapped a copy of *The Jerusalem Post*.

"You have an editorial on Turkey in there," he said. "I read it carefully. Do not be so pessimistic."

"We (Turks) are not at all pessimistic. Not at all."

First Lady dismisses Whitewater probe

LOS ANGELES (AP) - US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is dismissing congressional Whitewater inquiries as a politically motivated "investigation in search of a scandal."

"This is not about finding out the truth," Mrs. Clinton told the *Los Angeles Times* in an interview in which she also reacted publicly for the first time to *New York Times* columnist William Safire's essay accusing her of being "a congenital liar."

The White House suggested on Tuesday that President Clinton wanted to punch Safire in the nose, and Clinton didn't deny that characterization of his feelings when he addressed reporters later.

Mrs. Clinton called her husband's reaction "pretty funny," but added "I cannot take Mr. Safire seriously."

"I worked with the committee that impeached President Nixon," she said, referring to her job as an aide for the House Judiciary Committee in the early 1970s. "Safire worked for President Nixon. The best I can tell, he is still working for President Nixon."

Safire wrote the column after the White House last week said it had just discovered old records detailing Mrs. Clinton's work as a partner in the Rose Law Firm in the 1980s for Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, the failed Little Rock thrift that is at the center of investigations into a failed land deal known as Whitewater.

The records, subpoenaed two years earlier, show that Rose billed Madison for about 60 hours of legal work by Mrs. Clinton over a 15-month period.

Mrs. Clinton had previously called her work on behalf of the thrift insignificant, but she acknowledged in the interview Friday that people "quibble with my definition of significant."

"I cannot answer for where that box has been ... because I don't know," she said of the law firm records. "But the important thing is, when it was found, it was immediately turned over and it does support what I have been saying for four years."

The *Times* said Mrs. Clinton during the interview dismissed the notion of testifying before the Senate Whitewater Committee chaired by Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato of New York, saying it would be an unfair forum.



Salman Radnyev, leader of the Chechen rebel hostage-takers, smiles while posing with three young captives in the village of Pervomayskaya yesterday. (Reuters)

Chechen rebels hold over 100 hostages, release some

CHECHEN rebels reportedly forced some of their more than 100 hostages to dig trenches as they prepared yesterday for a confrontation with Russian troops blocking their way home.

The Russian negotiators and Chechen gunmen refused to budge in another day of talks aimed at freeing the captives from the besieged, snow-covered village.

A spokesman for the FSB security service, Alexander Zdanovich, said Russia wanted the separatist rebels "to surrender without conditions in the interests of securing the lives of hostages and peaceful citizens."

A top minister in Dagestan, the Russian region where the gunmen are holed up, said rebel negotiators had agreed to free women among the hostages but many women refused to leave without their husbands or other relatives.

Itar-Tass news agency said talks had been suspended at nightfall with little progress. The rebels restated demands to cross the border unmolested into their homeland.

Russia has taken a tough line throughout the drama and has said the Chechens cannot leave Dagestan with their captives.

As the hostage drama entered its fifth day, the Russian military dug in around Pervomayskaya, where the troops stopped the separatist rebels Wednesday on their

way back from a cross-border raid. Tension was high as helicopters, some ferrying Russian military brass, dived all day over the village on southern Russia's snow-blown steppes where the Dagestan borders Chechnya.

The Chechens have threatened to shoot the hostages if they are not guaranteed safe passage back to their breakaway republic.

A handful of women and children were released Friday, but there were 20 women and children among the remaining 116 hostages, said Dagestan's deputy interior minister, Gemady Shupagin. Earlier reports put the number of hostages at 105.

The rebels promised Friday to release them all if a few top Russian politicians took their place. But the Russian government showed no sign of backing down from its demand that all hostages be released.

Russian soldiers set off explosives yesterday on a bridge outside Pervomayskaya, but the bridge was not damaged and their intentions were unclear.

Helicopter gunships circled the village and some helicopters landed to let out senior Russian military officials, who appeared to be assessing the troops' positions.

Talks between the guerrillas and Dagestani officials continued yesterday.

News agencies
PERVOMAYSKAYA, Russia

The Kremlin has been keeping its distance from the negotiations.

President Boris Yeltsin, ahead of a possible re-election bid next June, appeared to be giving a mixed message. Magomedali Magomedov, the Dagestani leader who handled the negotiations, said Yeltsin voiced support for efforts to find a peaceful way out but stressed that "the bandits must not go unpunished."

"We shall be looking for the best option," Magomedov quoted Yeltsin as saying.

In a similar hostage crisis last June, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin held televised negotiations with rebel guerrillas and allowed them to escape to Chechnya, where they released the last of their hostages.

This time, the Kremlin and the Russian public, exasperated by the 13-month war in Chechnya and continuing rebel raids, might support the use of force.

Throughout the day Friday, troops dug trenches, camouflaged armored vehicles and positioned artillery guns, the daily *Izvestia* reported yesterday.

"Judging by this powerful buildup of forces and means, authorities are clearly preparing for a final 'dialogue' with the terrorists. Then, it seems, nobody would have time to think about the hostages," it wrote.

The Chechens planted mines on buses with some male hostages inside, and made others dig trenches and build fortifications, military officials told the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Friday evening, rebel fighters with grenade launchers, and anti-tank and anti-aircraft rockets guarded the village perimeter. Tank lights cut through the darkness.

About 150 rebels were keeping the hostages under guard in a mosque, school and mostly deserted village homes.

The Chechens released four women, three children and a Russian Interior Ministry officer, said Maj. Gen. Alexander Mikhallov of Russia's Federal Security Service.

Eight women refused to go free because their husbands and fathers were among the hostages, he said.

The crisis began Tuesday when the Chechens raided the Dagestani city of Kizlyar, seizing a hospital and as many as 3,000 hostages. At least 40 people were killed.

Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev said he had personally ordered his son-in-law Salman Radnyev to carry out the raid, the first in a series meant to mark "the beginning of an end" of the 13-month-old war.

Dudayev said in interviews this week that Kizlyar was chosen because Russian military helicopters used its airfield during a battle last month at the Chechen city of Gudermes.

Worldwatch report has praise for maligned regimes

WASHINGTON (AP) - Some of the world's most maligned regimes are making strides in protecting humanity from the disaster of an over-exploited world, according to the latest *State of the World* report.

The annual book-length report being published today by the independent Worldwatch Institute finds mostly bad news around the globe, but cites progress from unexpected sources: the governments of China and Iran.

It also praises five European countries for environmentally sound economic policies. Sweden, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain and Britain gradually are shifting away from taxing income to taxing activities that destroy the environment, the report said.

In addition, Germany has begun the first broad political shift in favor of wholesale restructuring a tax system, the report said. The United States, however, lags behind, said Worldwatch's president, Lester R. Brown.

"We're subsidizing things that just don't make sense anymore," Brown said in an interview prior to the report's release. "We should tax mining and subsidize recycling." He decried the fact that the debate over US tax reform has not focused on such a switch.

State of the World editions over the last decade have highlighted a broad array of environmental, social and political problems affecting the planet's future, with a sparse dose of optimism over efforts to reverse the trend.

"The bottom line is that the physical condition of the earth continues to deteriorate on almost every front," Brown said.

But Brown and the report reserve some positive analysis for the Iranian regime and Beijing's Communist rulers.

Noting Iran's acute scarcity of land and water, Brown said the government has limited housing, health and education subsidies to the first three children in a

family. "Iran is making a desperate effort to get off the demographic path that would more than double its 1995 population of 61 million to 131 million by 2030," Brown said. "Painful though this initiative may be, it could avoid far greater suffering down the road."

China, too, has turned to taxation policies aimed at slowing population growth, he noted, taxing each birth after the first.

"Even with this belated effort to slow population growth, China's soaring grain imports are helping drive world grain prices to near-record highs," Brown said.

The report says world grain stocks have dropped to an all-time low of 49 days' consumption. It also gives new evidence that rising storm activity around the world, partially attributed to global warming, has boosted property damage claims to insurance companies.

"Chapters on water problems provide new tables showing that 20 percent of freshwater fish species are threatened worldwide and that ground water depletion has become a global problem."

Overall, the report notes hotter summers, falling water tables, continuing deforestation, accelerating species extinctions and rising food prices due to depleted resources.

On a positive note, it says 30 countries have reached zero population growth, representing about 819 million people. But it says the poorest countries still are growing too fast for tightened world food supplies.

The Worldwatch report is published in 27 languages, including a Persian edition printed in Tehran and a Beijing edition, and distributed to government officials around the world. Worldwatch is a non-profit environmental research organization supported by grants and sale of its publications.

The changing US census

LOS ANGELES - America is a country so unsettled about race that almost every census since Colonial times has measured it differently, both mirroring and magnifying the biases of the age.

• Late 18th century: When the census originated, the nation was still part slave and part free and preoccupied with the notion of ownership. Thus in 1790 it categorized its citizens as free white males, free white females, other free people and slaves.

• 19th century: The issue of miscegenation took center stage, and so the census precisely tracked the bloodlines that came from intermarriage. Persons in 1890 were counted as white, black (if they had three-quarters or more black blood), mulatto (three-eighths to three-fifths black), quadroon (one-quarter) or octaroon (one-eighth).

• 1930s: The so-called "one-drop" rule held sway, as it has throughout the 20th century, when common practice and several court rulings said any person of mixed black and white descent is considered black. Or as the Census Bureau told its enumerators that year, "A person of mixed white and negro blood is to be returned a negro no matter how small the percentage."

• 1960s: Another key change in census procedure, and one that helped fuel the movement for self-definition among people of mixed race, came when respondents for the first time decided which box to check themselves, rather than being visually identified by door-to-door census-takers.

This was also the decade when Latinos gained a place on the form. Mexicans had been counted in the 1930s, then had dropped from the census count. But in the 1960s, the Census Bureau asked people to note if they were of Hispanic origin. This is an ethnic, not a racial category and is counted separately on the census form. Thus it engenders particular confusion. In California, for instance, about half of all Latinos describe themselves as something other than white on Census forms; many consider themselves mestizo - of mixed Spanish and American Indian parentage - while others identify themselves as blacks or Asians. The vast majority of people who check "other" on census forms, in the state and across the nation, are Latinos, apparently objecting to choices that do not reflect their racial diversity.

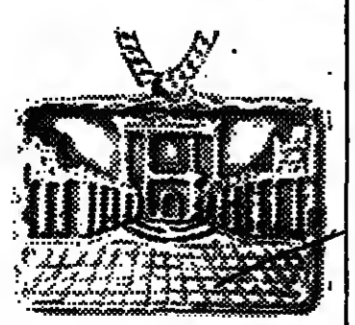
Even as these categories were designed, they were under siege. First came 1965 changes in immigration law that opened America's doors to more Latinos and Asians. Then followed a 1967 Supreme Court ruling (*Loving v. Virginia*) that struck down the nation's 16 remaining miscegenation laws and swelled the number of intermarriages and interracial births.

• 1970s: The last big change in categories came in 1977, when the Office of Management and Budget established a system that counts whites, blacks, Latinos, American Indians or Native Alaskans, and Asian or Pacific Islanders.

(Los Angeles Times)

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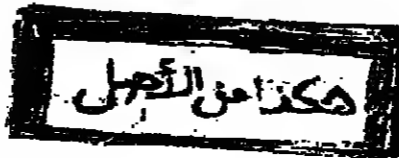
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Coming of age for group of Down Syndrome children

THE waiters heard who the guests would be - and refused to take any pay for the night. The owners of the Jerusalem hall provided the premises and a delicious meal at no cost, while the entertainers and photographers did their job gratis.

The guests of honor - all 12 and 13 years old - were Meital, Erez, Yonit, Neta, Tehila, Avihai, Nahman, Eliahu, Netanel, Leora, Sivan, Yael and Avi. Invited to the joint bar and bat mitzva celebration with their immediate families, all of them were born with Down Syndrome.

It was the first such event organized by Friends of Yated, the association for children with Down Syndrome. According to volunteer Ada Oz, the friends' group intends to organize similar parties every year or two.

The La Fontaine Hall in Jerusalem's Givat Sbaul quarter, owned by Yehiel Sabag and Yitzhak Shetreet, was the scene of the moving celebration.

"I know many parents of Down Syndrome children hesitate when they reach this age. If a boy can't read the Torah portion of the week in synagogue or the girl can't deliver a learned speech, they may feel embarrassed," said Rivka Sneh, Yated's national chairman.

When her own son Uriel, a Down Syndrome child now in his 20s, reached bar-mitzva age, Sneh thought it would be enough to have a simple ceremony in the synagogue and not a festive party for friends and acquaintances.

"But the family insisted, and I'm glad we did," she said. "It was wonderful."

The children came in all sizes and physical and cognitive abilities, but they had one thing in common: all had an extra Chromosome No. 21. This genetic defect occurs in one out of some 600 live births, but much more frequently among babies of older women.

People with Down Syndrome characteristically have a "mongoloid slant" to their eyes, a small head, a depressed nose bridge, low-set ears, a protruding tongue and a heavyset body - but there is much variation. The degree of mental retardation, also

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

varies considerably: some children can read and write, while others can't and barely are able to speak.

But all of the children at the party were happy and dressed in their holiday best. The parents, who knew each other from Yated meetings, beamed and often wiped away tears. Their offspring's hard-won childhood was over, and puberty was on its way.

Falling on the eighth night of Hanukkah, the ceremony featured candle-lighting and singing, in which all the children participated. And, as customary on the Festival of Lights, there were presents. Anonymous donors paid for bracelets and necklaces of semi-precious stones and gold for the girls, prayer shawls for the boys, and prayer books and photo albums for all. Labor and Social Affairs Minister Ora Namir, who could not attend, sent each child a basket of sweets and a hand-written note.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein did turn up to deliver his greetings in person. "Israel can be proud of great achievements in special education. I am certain that your lives are not easy," he told the parents, "but you must have satisfaction from your children. We know that Down children can have great achievements."

Prof. Reuven Feneinstein, a Yated adviser and psychologist who received the Israel Prize for his outstanding efforts to help Down Syndrome and other disabled children fulfill their potential, had been scheduled to speak. A high fever from the flu was the only thing that succeeded in keeping him away.

Prof. Ehezzer Jaffe of the Hebrew University's School of Social Work was at the party. A founder of the Israel Free Loan Association, he offered no-interest loans to families who wanted to purchase computers and other educational equipment for their children.

Neta Elbaz, an outgoing, dark-haired girl from Jerusalem's Gilo quarter who attends the Ben-Yehuda special education school, loves music, dancing and acting. The elder of two sisters, she was

born with the syndrome, but still manages to protect her younger sister Or when the two play in the neighborhood. Her mother Varda, a free-lance actress, didn't undergo amniocentesis or a blood test during pregnancy to check for Down Syndrome because she was young. Asked whether she would have undergone an abortion if she had learned about the fetus she was carrying, Varda smiled thoughtfully.

"It's a philosophical question, but now that we have her, we're so grateful," she replied. "It's hard, but no one in the family could envision life without Neta."

Varda often visits new mothers in the hospital who have given birth to a Down Syndrome baby. "I try to persuade them to take the baby home," she said. "When they hear of what Neta has accomplished - she is learning to read and write - they are encouraged. It is much less common now for parents to abandon their Down babies in the hospital. We want Neta to be as independent as possible, for her to live without constant supervision in a protected framework, even to settle down as [part of] a couple. One young woman with Down Syndrome recently got married!"

Ephraim Sassover, a Habad bassid from Kiryat Malachi whose first of six children, Nahman, was born with Down Syndrome, was thrilled by the party. "We decided to have our own bar-mitzva party for Nahman in Bnei Brak," he said. "We invited 120, but 220 people came in with presents, because they wanted to celebrate with us. I bought the best-quality *villit* for him, so my other children would respect him like any other bar-mitzva boy."

Nahman is based to Jerusalem from his development town every day. Only in the capital is there a suitable haredi school - Siah Sod - for Down Syndrome children of his background.

"I told my younger children: Never be ashamed," Sassover said. "And though Nahman will never be able to do all they can do, we will always be proud of him."

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

ISRAELI physicians are talented and technically competent but impersonal and take little interest in the whole individual; people are forced to make many out-of-pocket payments; no one wants to make night house calls; and dental care is prohibitively expensive.

If not all exactly true, this is at least the perceived image of Israeli health care among immigrants from the former Soviet Union, expressed in a survey of olim conducted by a Russian-born sociologist. Since over half a million CIS immigrants have settled here during the past five years, it is worthwhile for the health authorities to note these perceptions.

Dr. Larissa Remnick, who worked for 10 years at the National Cancer Research Institute in Moscow, conducted the survey and wrote a 32-page report for the JDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem. Since her aliyah five years ago, she has conducted research at Brookdale, Sheba Hospital, Hadassah-University Hospital and the Hebrew University.

Remnick sat in health-fund clinic and *tipat halav* (family health center) queues in Ramat Gan, Bnei Brak, Tel Aviv, Givat Shmuel, Bat Yam and Or Yehuda, and in Sheba, Kaplan, Ichilov and Beilinson hospitals. She presented former CIS immigrants with long questionnaires. Most of them were filled out on site, but when some people were reluctant to speak openly, she went to their homes to glean opinions. The resulting survey provides an interesting window on the perspectives of the newcomers, who compared the Israeli health system with what they became accustomed to in their native land.

In the CIS, every citizen is entitled - and legally required - to register with a health clinic in the neighborhood or in the workplace. There is no freedom of choice of doctors: one sees the doctor to whom one is assigned. Once here, the immigrants were free to select whatever health fund they wanted (especially during the past year, since the national health insurance law provided free access), but most olim chose their insurer on the basis of word of mouth from relatives and friends.

"We didn't know the differences among the health funds. Only one - Clalit - had a Russian-speaking clerk who helped us fill out the forms. So we chose them," said one woman. Yet, after a few years in the country, because of "long queues or red tape," about 25 percent of Clalit members surveyed said they switched to a smaller insurer.

While primary health clinics in the CIS were generally short of equipment and technical staff, there were plenty of doctors on duty round the clock, the immigrants recalled. They made house calls, and an ambulance could be summoned any time of the day or night - all for free. Once here, many immigrants said they were

disappointed by long waits in Clalit clinics, the "reluctance" of their general practitioners to refer patients to specialists and the bureaucracy, although they had noticed "improvements" recently. Members of the smaller health funds were very pleased by their free choice of GPs and specialists, but also disliked begging for a house call and paying "high fees" when the doctor did come. [A new feature of the health insurance law requires all the insurers to provide round-the-clock service, but not necessarily at home, for up to NIS 60 per visit.]

Finding equivalents for medications they had been prescribed in their native country was annoying. Patients complained that Israeli doctors denigrated the efficacy of Russian drugs and prescribed local ones, causing some to turn to smuggled medicines. Patients in the CIS were frequently required to make under-the-table payments in cash or presents to a doctor or nurse just to get an injection or decent medical care. They did not encounter "black medicine" here and were pleased that "all seemed to be aboveboard."

Elderly immigrants on fixed incomes complained about the high price of drugs, some of which are not included in the approved list of subsidized medications. In Russia, all medicines were free. But the most shocking cost was dental care, they said. Most go to a dentist only in an emergency.

Many immigrants arrived with the notion that Israeli doctors routinely perform miracles. Remnick reported. While the doctors were competent and had high-tech equipment at their dis-

posal, the immigrants found there wasn't a cure for everything. "If you don't need a liver transplant but just ordinary care, you don't get any more here than in my hometown. In fact, you get less, because there we had the same doctor for years; maybe he was less educated, but he was more friendly and knew how to speak our language," was a frequent comment.

"Doctors here just want to get your case over with. They want to find the reason for your visit ... and goodbye. Don't try to ask a general question or tell him something about your past. He becomes impatient, because he has no intention of really treating you, but only of adding you to his list as a basis for his pay," said an embittered patient. Even Russian immigrant physicians who were trained to listen have adopted this habit, they complained.

Soviet doctors received relatively low pay, but they were regarded as authorities to be respected, who cared about their patients and took a "holistic" approach - even offering psychological support. By contrast, Israeli physicians are seen by the olim as competent but cold and superficial. "They don't listen to what I have to say. They don't even examine you. It's not a big problem, don't worry," they say. "They're interested in only special cases," another patient complained.

Language was a barrier, especially for old people who tried Yiddish but found many young Israeli doctors didn't understand the language. As a result, they

often canceled their appointments or delayed going to the clinic. Only if they were seriously ill did language seem unimportant. Used to the Soviet approach in which those who didn't undergo checkups lost rights to an annual vacation or maternity leave, immigrants have difficulty getting used to the need to take responsibility for their own health. When Israeli doctors failed to "tell them what to do," they were seen as "apathetic."

They had fewer complaints about hospitalization: the bathrooms were clean, the food was satisfactory and there was more privacy than they had been accustomed to. Compared to Russia, where patients often stay in the wards for weeks before a diagnosis is reached, hospital stays here are much shorter. As for *tipat halav* centers, immigrant parents praised the skills of the nurses, but bewailed the generally poor physical conditions of these centers. In Russia, many avoided taking their infants for vaccinations due to shortages of vaccines syringes. Many immigrant mothers were aghast at Israeli mothers' habits: letting them crawl over cold and dirty stone floors, or sticking a pacifier back in their baby's mouth after it had fallen onto the floor.

"The transition from Soviet-style medicine to Israel's brand is relatively smooth but not without problems," Remnick concludes. Working out misconceptions and improving communication can do much to ease the bumps and better serve the health needs of the immigrants, she suggested.



According to a survey, many CIS immigrants arrived with the notion that doctors routinely perform miracles here, only to discover that not everything has a cure. (Zeev Ackerman)

CIS immigrants find the good and bad of local medical care

Guest house assists children with cancer

HEALTH SCAN
POST HEALTH REPORTER

A free guest house for children undergoing treatment for cancer and their families has been opened near the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva. Called Oranit, the pioneering project covers 3,000 square meters and includes comfortable accommodations for families, classrooms, dining rooms, a synagogue, and facilities for entertainment, physiotherapy and music therapy. The recent dedication of Oranit was attended by President Ezer Weizman.

Oranit, built at a cost of \$4 million, was funded by the Bracha and Motti Zisser Foundation, together with the Ezer Mi'Zion organization.

The guest house is the first of its kind in the Middle East to provide round-the-clock accommodation and support for children requiring cancer therapy in a nearby hospital. The children are able to study in a protected environment while undergoing chemotherapy, which weakens their immune system.

Established 12 years ago, Ezer Mi'Zion supplies ambulances, medical advice, blood donors, medical equipment, meals on wheels and entertainment for hospitalized children.

COOL-DOWN SAVES PATIENT

A 60-year-old woman suffering from life-threatening blood clots in her lungs was saved recently when doctors cooled her body to 15 degrees Celsius and removed the clots.

It was the first time that this complicated surgical procedure was carried out here.

The patient was increasingly short of breath and bed-ridden as a result of blood clots sent out by her legs to the lung arteries.

Breathing was such an effort that she turned blue.

Dr. Eli Milgater and Prof. Gidon Meiri of the cardiothoracic surgery department lowered her body temperature to halt her blood circulation. They were then



The residents of Oranit can study in a protected environment while undergoing chemotherapy.

able to "clean out" the lung arteries, including the smallest ones, after which her body was warmed and her heart began to beat.

The patient's breathing was restored to almost normal, and she was discharged a month later.

Until now, patients requiring this kind of treatment had to be sent to a hospital in San Diego, which specialized in it. Milgater, who studied the technique in California and brought his expertise home, says patients will no longer have to be sent abroad for it.

WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTER

A new women's health center is being established at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus in Petah Tikva in a completely renovated, 60-year-old building.

The four-storey outpatient facility will include an ultrasound department for obstetrical and gynecological patients and a clinic for high-risk pregnancies.

The center has been equipped with high-tech devices for doctors to perform chorionic villus sampling (to detect defects in the fetus) and to track gestational diabetes and hypertension.

BEAUTIFUL HOSPITALS

Prizes for improved aesthetics in government hospitals were granted recently by the Council for a Beautiful Israel to four state institutions. It was the first beautiful-hospital competition held by the council and the Health Ministry.

The winners were Nabariya Government Hospital, Soverasky (Ichilov) Hospital in Tel Aviv, Bnei Zion Hospital in Haifa and Wolfson Hospital in Holon. The competing hospitals were examined for cleanliness, appearance of their exteriors and lobbies, maintenance and signs. The awards were presented by Health Minister Ephraim Sneh and the council's international president, Aura Herzog.

Be careful using plastics with heated food

Rx FOR READERS
POST HEALTH REPORTER

Is there any danger in putting a plastic sheet or bag over hot food, or putting hot food in a plastic container? Does the plastic release any dangerous gases or other chemicals when heated? S.T., Haifa.

Prof. Shmuel Yannai, a senior toxicologist at the Haifa Technion's department of food engineering and biotechnology, answers:

Some plastics can emit dangerous materials when heated, but not all plastics are dangerous. The rule is to expose to heat only those plastic wrappings and containers that are specifically labeled as being meant for high temperatures.

One hopes one can trust the accuracy of these labels, which are supervised by the Health and Trade and Industry ministries.

Polystyrene, known in Hebrew as *kalkar*, is sold in the form of cups, but one must not drink a hot drink from them. The heat can emit chemicals that are carcinogenic (cancer-causing) or mutagenic (causing gene mutation), none of which is approved as food additives.

Don't wrap hot food with plastic (polyethylene) bags either. Another kind of bag (known commercially as cookie bags) is specifically designed for actual cooking in the oven, and these are safe. One-time exposure to these chemicals is not risky, but long-term exposure is.

My son insists that I cook meat and poultry for a long time and at high heat; he says it tastes better that way, but it comes out very brown and dry. Is this dangerous to health? R.A., Beit Shמש.

Prof. Yannai of the Technion has an answer for this as well:

Overcooking is not healthful. Cooking at very high temperatures, or cooking over long periods of time, will make food dark brown or scorched. Don't eat any foods that are cooked to a dark brown or darker.

Overcooking can cause the production of toxic chemicals in the food that can, in people exposed to them over years, be carcinogenic or mutagenic. The rule is the same for frying, roasting, baking and barbecuing.

Overcooking is more dangerous than undercooking. Undercooked food can cause microbial infections (which are annoying but usually pass quickly without harm), but overcooking in the long run can be even more harmful. Pregnant women and children should be especially careful.

My six-year-old daughter developed a terrible, painful rash in her mouth that made it difficult for her to eat or drink for days. The doctor said it was foot-and-mouth disease. I was alarmed; doesn't this happen only in cattle? What causes it and how can it be treated? C.T., Tel Aviv.

Dr. Yael Levy, a pediatrician at the Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva, replies:

The condition is caused by a virus, and it affects people as well as cattle. One doesn't have to be in contact with animals to get it. There is usually fever and a rash that most of the time passes by themselves. You can relieve the symptoms with ointments, and the patient should drink a lot of liquids.

will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page.

Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK IN ISRAEL



a guide to beautiful places
Ori Devir

A special selection of some of the beautiful places in Israel... water sites, hills, desert, seashore, archeological finds and more... some accessible from the road and others that can only be reached on foot. The book is written for both the armchair traveler as well as active out-and-about explorers. Arranged by geographic regions, with maps at the beginning of each page/excursion, and with instructions for getting to the locations. Based on the ITV production, *Nekudat Chen*. Hardcover. 1989. Adama Books. JP Price NIS 72.00 inc. VAT packing and postage.

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Russia's internal Bosnia

RUSSIA'S war with the Chechens may seem like it has been running for years - but it was just over a year ago that the Kremlin made its disastrous assault on the breakaway southern republic. Now mired in yet another hostage crisis, there is little doubt that Russia's leaders wish they could put the clock back and reconsider their options.

If Afghanistan was the Soviet Union's Vietnam, Chechnya has become Russia's Bosnia - and the prospects for a peaceful solution look even more remote than in the former Yugoslav states. It was ironic that while Russian forces were locked in a standoff with the Chechen rebels holding the hostages, other Russian troops left for Bosnia yesterday to join the NATO-led pacification there.

Not that the Chechens deserve much sympathy for this particular crisis - the attack on the Dagestan town of Kizlyar and the subsequent siege of the convoy of rebels and hostages in Pervomayskaya is nothing more than wanton terrorism. It is also clear that Dagestan province, which last year gave some moral and material support to the rebellion in Chechnya, has been infuriated by the Chechen abuse of its citizens. The rebels herded 2,000 people into a hospital in Kizlyar and at least 23 people have been killed. The gunmen continued to hold 100 hostages as human shields yesterday, while they tried to bully their way back to Chechnya.

The whole affair bodes ill for President Boris Yeltsin as presidential elections inch closer. The Chechens are far from defeated, whatever optimistic noises emanate from Moscow, and it would be surprising if they do not try to exact revenge on Yeltsin's administration by causing

more havoc around election time. This hostage-taking is the second such operation inside Russia by the Chechens in seven months and there is little doubt they are capable of mounting even more spectacular attacks.

Continuing Chechen anger over the brutal near-destruction of their capital and other towns may easily force Yeltsin into a no-win corner. He must prove tough in dealing with terrorism - a stance which only increases the determination of the rebels. Yeltsin faces the unpalatable choice of being judged either "incompetent" or "weak" - both sure election losers.

With all its other major problems - the economy, crime, disillusion with post-Soviet reforms - the last thing Russia actually needed was a lengthy civil war. Yeltsin initially received strong support for suppressing the rebellion in Chechnya - analogies to an American state attempting to leave the union were made to justify it. Yeltsin and the generals promised a swift, sharp conclusion to the affair, and then proceeded to make a complete mess of the war.

Television reports of rallies held across Chechnya yesterday demonstrated that not only have the Russians failed to beat the rebels, but they have driven the population's hatred of Moscow to new heights. The demonstrators would not condemn the hostage-takers; many expressed outright support and repeated demands that all Russian troops leave Chechnya.

Once this immediate crisis is resolved, Yeltsin's team will have to do some hard thinking about future policy on Chechnya or it will become the dominant issue in the election campaign. That will be bad news for Yeltsin, for reformers, and for the future of the entire Russian federation.

The cross-country expressway

IT is difficult to dispute the arguments of 24 environmental associations against the trans-Israel expressway. They claim that the new road, the cornerstone for which was laid with great fanfare last week, will do none of the things the government says it will do. It will not ease traffic jams at the entrances to the major cities. It will not make the country's center more accessible to communities on the periphery; on the contrary - it will only add vehicles from outlying areas to blocked arteries in the center, assuring gridlock and paralysis in the country's urban areas.

Above all, they say, the new super-highway will do nothing to improve Israel's quality of life. If anything, the new road will damage it incalculably by adding pollution, destroying natural preserves, defacing the scenery, and turning beautiful green into ugly concrete.

These objections are voiced not only by fringe groups out of touch with reality. Even the most extreme opponents of the planned road recognize the gravity of the problem the new highway is intended to alleviate. Israel's transport infrastructure is far behind those of the advanced industrial countries - a situation which hampers the realization of the country's human and industrial potential.

Industries in outlying areas have no easy access for their products to city outlets and ports, and workers on the periphery are confined to jobs available in their own towns for lack of fast, easy transportation to other job markets. No modern society can survive without a transportation network which shrinks distances and makes every area in the country easily accessible.

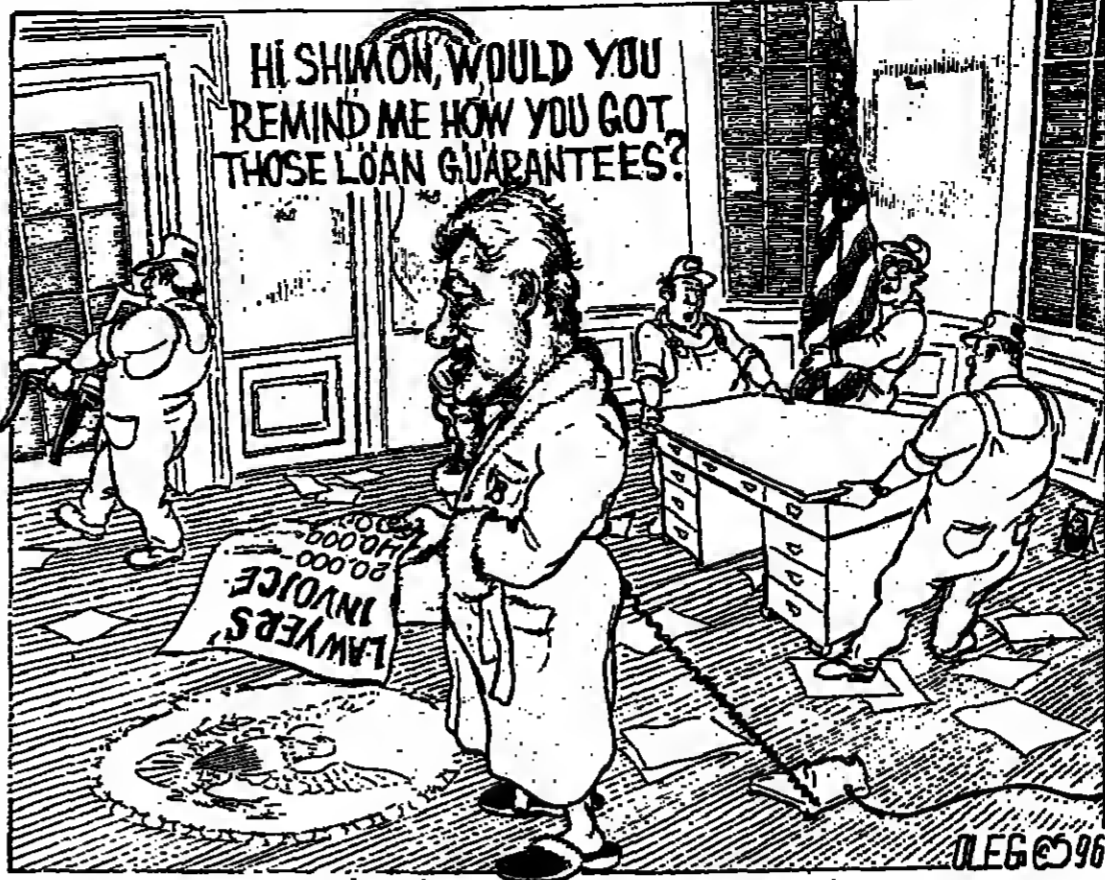
The alternative opponents of the highway offer is a modern electric railway network. Far more efficient than cars and environmentally sound, fast trains are an ideal mode of transport

ation in small countries, where air travel over relatively short distances makes little sense. Electric trains cause no pollution and they are safe, fast, and economical. A network which includes suburban commuter trains, subways in the major cities, and express trains between cities with connections to distant communities can provide an ideal infrastructure for Israel.

But while the logic of this argument is unassailable, it does not take into account a simple fact of life. Despite all the drawbacks of private transport - the danger to life and limb, huge expense, parking problems, and wasteful hours in suffocating traffic bottlenecks - most people want to own a car. It gives them an unequalled feeling of freedom, which even the most luxurious, comfortable, and fast public transportation cannot provide. The private car has become not only a symbol of prosperity, but an indispensable adjunct of modern life. To expect car owners - including the majority of environmentalists and academics fighting the construction of the highway - to give up their private vehicles even if public transportation improves dramatically is to indulge in wishful thinking.

There are 1.2 million vehicles on Israel's roads today, and the infrastructure is woefully unequal to the task of accommodating them. Within a decade the number is expected to be 2 million. The new trans-Israel expressway, even if it is concluded in time, will just manage to catch up with the country's need. It should, it must be built.

And if the 24 associations wish to spend their time constructively, they should stop campaigning against the highway and begin pushing with all their might and influence for the construction of a railway network. To become competitive on the world market, raise the standard of living, and improve the country's quality of life, Israel will need both.



News item: Clinton near bankruptcy

A future 'trade tiger'

A senior American official delivers strongly worded public remarks attacking the "shortsighted" trade laws of a close ally and friend.

He notes the ally's heavy dependence on US support for its security in a region filled with menacing neighbors. And he attributes much of the ally's economic success to generous US assistance that has enabled the country to evolve over the past 40 years into a leading global center of technology, with a living standard well above that of others in its region.

Yet, he complains, the ally now refuses to create a "level playing field for American companies" and erects "bureaucratic impediments that stand in the way of American firms doing business and selling their products."

The remarks of US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor about Japan? No. The ally is Israel, and the criticism came from the US ambassador in Tel Aviv.

In a widely reported address to the Israel-America Chamber of Commerce last year, US Ambassador Martin Indyk complained of "a host of non-tariff barriers, regulations and restrictions that actually tilt the scale against American products and harm Israeli consumers," to the benefit of European exporters.

Indyk noted that the US, unlike Europe, has consistently withstood Arab pressure to participate in arms embargoes or economic boycotts against Israel, and has remained Israel's "most steadfast ally."

In return, Indyk complained, Israel has accorded "special treatment" to European products, and has failed to fulfill pledges to "buy American" with the \$10 billion in US loan guarantees.

Unlike Japan, Israel currently suffers from an increasing overall trade deficit. However, much of that deficit - \$7.5b-worth - stems from trade with the European Union. By contrast, Israel last year enjoyed a nearly \$1b. surplus with the US, based on exports to the US of approximately \$5.25b.

Indyk attributed that disparity to Israeli trade barriers, and accused Israel of placing the US in the "absurd, untenable situation where the United States is subsidizing (through US aid) your trade deficit with Europe."

Since Indyk's unprecedented attention-grabber, trade relations

BEHNAM DAYANIM

between the two nations appear to have improved. Last October, Kantor and the Israelis agreed to negotiate reciprocal access in the ever-sensitive agricultural sector.

More recently, Israel unilaterally decided to lift limits on imports of processed foods, and gradually to

That's how some people have begun labeling Israel. But a tiger who makes unwise moves could find itself de-clawed

reduce customs fees for those products over the next seven years.

Further, Israel has redressed what Indyk in his speech referred to as "the most egregious, the most outstanding bad example" of Israeli trade barriers - Israel's tax on imported automobiles. Historically, that tax has been levied on the basis of "engine displacement" or the size of a car's engine.

Because US-made cars generally use larger engines than their European or Japanese counterparts, they incurred higher taxes. The late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin pushed through a change in the tax in response to US concerns.

Yet despite the recent progress, points of contention remain:

• Israel's strict regulations requiring metric sizes on packaging of food products, which force many US suppliers to export to Israel through European subsidiaries.

• Israel's "TAMA" tax on imported goods.

• Deficiencies in Israel's protection of "intellectual property," such as software and pharmaceuticals.

WHAT MOST irritates US officials is the perceived imbalance between Israel's attitudes toward trade with the US and toward Europe.

Prime minister Rabin, who harbored lingering resentment toward Europe for its past criticism of Israel and possessed more of an af-

finity for the US, was a driving force in addressing US concerns.

With Rabin's passing, however, Shimon Peres, a known Europhile, has assumed center stage. US officials have called the death of Rabin a blow to US business.

With Peres now at the helm, Israel has signed a Europe-Mediterranean pact to create a free-trade zone in the area by 2010 - a move that would extinguish the advantage for US suppliers under the pioneering Israel-US Free Trade Agreement.

The recent auto imbroglio, during which the US threatened to impose retaliatory tariffs against Japanese luxury cars, offers an instructive example of the potential costs of an adversarial atmosphere.

During the dispute, Kantor, with President Clinton's unwavering support, banished the "big stick" of international trade policy - unilateral sanctions. At the final hour, the two countries reached an accommodation.

Israel is perhaps even more susceptible than Japan to US pressure. It boasts several high-profile sectors in direct competition with the US - semiconductors, telecommunications equipment, and agriculture, to name only some.

Moreover, Israel receives over \$3b. annually in loans and grants in addition to the loan guarantees. Should the US's dissatisfaction with Israeli trade practices increase, it need only threaten to reduce or suspend that assistance.

Israel has witnessed five years of remarkable economic growth during which its economy has expanded by nearly a third. Indyk and others have in recent months begun labeling the country as a future "Asian tiger" of the Middle East.

But the persistence of perceived unfair Israeli trade barriers will, in time, create friction in the two countries' "special" association. And trade friction can quickly escalate into a bitter war of words that cannot help but erode the overall relationship.

Indyk's speech signals the first rumblings of displeasure. If Israel does not heed the warnings of last year, it could find that, in this new era of economic protestation, emerging tigers are speedily de-clawed.

The writer, who practices law in Washington, works extensively in the field of international trade.

Say that again?

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER

WHEN in late 1992 President Bush ordered American troops into Somalia on their mission of mercy, an Islamic opposition leader in Jordan rose in parliament to explain the real US motive. Somalia, he explained, was part of a grand US strategy, a pincer movement "besieging Sudan" to dominate the Islamic world by controlling the horn of Africa.

At the time, I was sure I would never encounter so extravagant a misunderstanding of American innocence abroad. I was wrong.

The New York Times offered close competition in an op-ed article entitled "The Third American Empire" in which Jacob Heilbrunn and Michael Lind expose the deep, indeed global, strategic rationale for Bill Clinton's 20,000-man intervention in Bosnia.

It seems the US is in Bosnia not, as one would have thought, because Clinton was backed into this intervention, exactly as in Haiti, by a commitment he made that he could finally no longer avoid redeeming. Nor is the US there for what seems the obvious humanitarian motive of stopping a wrenching living-room war.

As to what minimal geopolitical thought went into this intervention, the idea was not, according to Heilbrunn and Lind, to shore up a fraying NATO, demonstrate alliance relevance, and assert American leadership in Europe.

No. Heilbrunn and Lind have discovered that US intervention in Bosnia is really an occupation of "the western frontier of America's rapidly expanding sphere of influence in the Middle East."

Against the better judgment of European allies, the US is adding yet another Moslem client to its "Third American Empire," its Islamic dominion stretching from the Persian Gulf to the eastern Mediterranean, and now to the Balkans.

ASK: Why in God's name would the US want that? The Balkans, I mean.

I know why the US wants to dominate the Gulf. It has oil, half the known reserves of the entire planet. And the rest of the Middle East offers excellent imperial assets: air bases, sea lanes, ports, a canal - as well as being the locus of America's one reliable ally in the area, Israel.

But Bosnia? Why should any American "empire" covet Bosnia, a godforsaken rump state, landlocked, destitute, and defenseless? A greater strategic albatross is hard to conceive of this side of Somalia.

Drawing a strategic parallel, as Heilbrunn and Lind do, between Bosnia and say, Kuwait because both their populations happen to be Moslem is as absurd as placing Haiti and South Africa in the same strategic basket because both their populations are majority black.

Moreover, Heilbrunn and Lind don't just offer this bizarre rationale for the US's Bosnian adventure. They applaud the idea of adding Bosnia to the US's string of Islamic clients and warn that "failure in Bosnia could undermine the Third American Empire."

They so cherish this new jewel in the crown that they advocate reducing the American military presence in Asia to "free resources needed to bolster the new commitments in the Middle East and the Balkans."

So the grand new strategy amounts to this: Abandon the US presence in East Asia, the world's fastest growing area, economically, demographically, and militarily, in order to bolster the US's new beachhead in the Balkans. Withdraw the US from, say, Japan in order to husband resources to build better pontoon bridges across the Sava River.

Next, Heilbrunn and Lind will propose giving the Louisiana Territory back to France in exchange for Martinique.

The facts are plain. The Middle East matters. East Asia matters. Bosnia does not. The US is only there to stop the bloodshed.

Bosnia is no outpost of empire. It is a dismal backwater.

True, in the 19th century, the colonial powers hustled after even the most dismal of backwaters.

However, the 20th century, long and bitter for would-be colonizers, has thoroughly expanded that impulse.

The only debate about Bosnia, as about Somalia, is how soon the US can abandon the place without undue humiliation.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

THE SPINOZA INSTITUTE

Sir, - The so-called Spinoza Institute whose last seminar Yosef Goell (December 12) finds unrelated to the realities of the Middle East, is also quite unrelated to the spirit of Spinoza. It was Spinoza who first, making a firm distinction between deeds and words, proclaimed that the freedom of expression is the chief aim of a free state. In his own words: "In a free state, every person thinks what he wants and says what he thinks," a dictum not followed by a single state in the Middle East, including Israel.

But Spinoza also first said (and proved) that the Pentateuch was not written by Moses and that other books of the Bible were not written by their putative authors. What is more, Spinoza also showed that an earlier Jewish scholar, Rabbi Avraham Ibn-Ezra, expressed the same opinion in a series of hints in his commentary.

The Spinoza Institute, being untrue to the spirit of Spinoza, and dedicating itself only to "safe" subjects and the flattery of the powers that be, has never yet included that opinion in its "seminars." ISRAEL SHAHAK Jerusalem.

PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

Sir, - I was agreeably surprised to find The Jerusalem Post editorial of December 31 so concerned for the right of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to freely elect their representatives to their own sovereign parliament, and so insistent that these elections be held in strict adherence to internationally-accepted democratic criteria. This is quite a change after so many years during which The Jerusalem Post staunchly supported Israeli rule over two million disenfranchised Palestinians and strongly opposed any move towards letting them hold elections of their own. I hope you continue along this new course, up to recognizing the unavoidable reality that a Palestinian state is going to be established within a few years at most. For my part, I certainly share the wish that our new neighbor will be a democratic state - as do the Palestinians themselves.

Holon.

ADAM KELLER

The Jerusalem Post has never advocated disenfranchising anyone. Ed, J.P.

QUESTION MARK

Sir, - The one thing that is becoming increasingly clear is that the so-called "peace process" is going to produce two police states. One will be called Palestine and the other will be called Israel. If, indeed, there is an Israel after the Peres machinations have run their full course.

EDWARD LINN San Diego, California.

EXCELLENT ARTICLE

Sir, - I would like to thank Uri Dan and Dennis Eisenberg for all their articles, but especially the one of December 28, "Peres's deliberate gaffe." This article gave a good picture of the personality traits of Prime Minister Peres.

ANNI RUUTI Tiberias.

PERSONAL OPINION

Sir, - On December 26, Eitan Cooper wrote an op-ed article entitled "Wrong thinking on rights." I would like to make it clear that Mr. Cooper expressed his own personal opinion only.

ELI HACOENEN, Director of Public Relations, Hadassah Organization in Israel Jerusalem.

POSTSCRIPTS

NOW, AT LAST, science confirms what we have always known: Toast really does land butter-side down.

It has nothing to do with statistics or butter's aerodynamics; it is dictated by the same physical laws that decide the size of atoms and keep the planets on their orbits.

Robert Matthews, of Aston University in Birmingham, England, has proved it. In the European Journal of Physics, under the title "Tumbling Toast, Murphy's Law and the Fundamental Constants," he demonstrates that when a slice of toast slides off a plate, it tips and spins at a uniform rate.

That rate, and the average kitchen table's height, virtually guarantee it will land on its face.

Or as Matthews puts it: "The fate of the toast, whether it lands butter side up or down, boils down to the size of a ratio, and that ratio is the ratio of the size of the toast to the height of the table."

The bad news is that we're stuck in a universe where toast must fall this way. If you want your toast to land butter-side up, your table would have to be about 10 feet tall.

"In other words," says Matthews, "toast fall off the breakfast table tends to land butter-side down because the universe is made that way."

To cope in such a cruel universe, Matthews offers a few suggestions: "If your toast is sliding off the table, you should give it a swipe with your hand to increase its horizontal speed off the table. If you're lucky, it may then glide off the table, staying butter side up. If toast is sliding off a plate, you should move the plate rapidly downward and backward, breaking contact with the toast, which then descends butter-side up."

We can all try that tomorrow morning.

A GARDENER who was plagued by a produce plunderer laid a green-thumb plot to trap him - he hid in his garden shed with a video camera and secretly taped a rival slashing his zucchinis.

Derek Fothergill was ordered by a Malton, England, court to pay £28 for the plants. "I regret it, but at the time I enjoyed it," he said.

Alan Boyes, 60, owner of the zucchinis, said in court he had a long-running dispute with Fothergill.

Boyes was fed up with the destruction of the best of the vegetables he planned to sell at markets. After finding 500 plants severed at the roots, he hid with a video camera. He recorded 20 minutes of footage. "Chopping them up... two, three, four, five," Fothergill, 62, is heard saying on the tape.



the Jerusalem Post
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 again?

THE JERUSALEM
 POST

A review of commentary and humor
 from American Press Syndicates

AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, January 14, 1996



Dole attempts to end shutdown

BY ROBERT NOVAK

Grumbling among Republican senators about Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole's "enough-is-enough" effort to end the partial government shutdown was caused not only by his failure to consult with his colleagues before acting but also by the choice of his principal collaborator: Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia.

Two weeks ago, Warner was in the Republican cloakroom expounding plans to fund the government again. But his GOP colleagues assumed that Warner, not the most popular Republican either in Virginia party circles or in the Senate, was just blowing off steam as he often does.

Nearly all Republican senators were surprised when Dole later that day asked for unanimous consent to pass a continuing resolution providing temporary government funds.

When Dole's resolution passed, the only two Republicans on the Senate floor other than the majority leader were Warner and Sen. Pete Domenici, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. They produced the "unanimous" Senate vote that prompted House Democrats to spend the next few days praising Dole after House GOP leaders refused to go along.

DOLE AMUSES DEMS

House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt enthralled some of his closest Democratic colleagues Thursday with an anecdote from the bipartisan budget conference at the White House.

As the unproductive debate droned on, Gephardt related, Dole turned to him and whispered in his ear: "I've got to get out of here!"

Gephardt's congressional audience laughed in delight, tickled by the predicament of the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination tied up in Washington but yearning to be in Iowa and New Hampshire. But the anecdote also fits the general Democratic tactic of splitting Dole away from the Republican revolution.

CLINTON'S TOP GUN

Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes Jr., who a few months ago appeared to be losing ground inside the White House, is now seen as prevailing at least temporarily in his efforts to hold President Clinton to a hard liberal line.

Through last summer and early autumn, Ickes was widely seen by Democratic insiders as losing out ideologically to political consultant Dick Morris' strategy of "triangulation" - positioning Clinton between congressional Democrats and congressional Republicans.

But since the budget crisis began, the president's tough bargaining position is what leading Democrats in Congress want. That is viewed, both at the White House and on Capitol Hill, as a major victory for Ickes in his backstage battle with Morris.

GOP TV WARS

The Republican National Committee has sent word to angry GOP freshman House members that now is not the time to wage a blitz of television advertising in their behalf.

The outspoken congressional rookies have protested that Republican National Chairman Haley Barbour has left them defenseless in the face of a massive TV campaign against Republicans by labor unions and other liberal groups. They called on the RNC to respond in kind.

The answer from Barbour is that money spent now will not be available in the future and should be saved for the campaign itself. The position by RNC strategists is that the huge expenditure by the Democratic National Committee in 1994 supporting Clinton's health-care plan proved to be a total waste of money.

FORBES POLICY CHIEF

As soon as the Republican tax commission headed by Jack Kemp submits its report, its staff director, Grace Marie Arnett, will go to work as the policy director of Steve Forbes' campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

Arnett, an experienced Washington journalist and political operative, was a major architect of the Republican strategy against Clinton's health plan in 1994. At the Kemp commission, she has had to contend with Dole's staffers seeking to water down tax-reform recommendations.

The commission, trying not to offend Dole's advisers, ended up with general rather than specific recommendations. At the Forbes campaign, Arnett will be supplying details for the candidate's all-out flat tax.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the Chicago Sun-Times.

High-skill dropouts?

Rising tide of immigrants in high level U.S. jobs

BY ROBERT WRIGHT

Have you noticed the excess of talented and productive American workers? Sen. Alan Simpson has, and he's not going to take it lying down. Witness the immigration bill he's sponsoring. Under current law, 140,000 highly skilled workers per year can get permanent visas as "employer-sponsored" immigrants. Simpson's bill would lower that ceiling to 90,000, and take other measures to stem the rising tide of proficiency before it reaches dangerous levels.

Simpson's bill goes well beyond high-skill workers. It would cut the total immigration level of 800,000 per year by 200,000. Like the House's big immigration bill, it is an expression of growing qualms about immigration in general.

These qualms aren't wholly irrational. They are about half irrational and half a plausible, if debatable, attempt to address real economic and cultural problems. But the same can't be said of Simpson's focus on high-skill immigrants. It combines all the confusion of standard immigration reform arguments with none of their legitimacy. It wouldn't ameliorate such problems as growing income inequality and cultural balkanization; it would make them worse. To the extent that immigration reform has a coherent purpose, Simpson's crusade against talent would tend to defeat it.

FLAWS

The most common flaw in anti-immigration arguments is the idea that one worker's fortune is another worker's misfortune. To hear some immigration reformers talk, you'd think our economy has a fixed number of jobs or a fixed payroll, so that every incoming worker either puts one native-born worker out of work or lowers average wages. But of course, if that were true — if the whole pie were really fixed in size — then any form of population growth would be bad news. The past two centuries would have been a story of ever-plunging per-capita income. In truth, adding productive workers to an economy can create a demand for even more workers. After all, workers don't just

make money — they spend it.

The more sophisticated arguments for immigration reform concede the possibility that all may be well in the long run, but dwell on immediate dislocation: in the short term, at least, immigrants who work for cheap can raise unemployment or lower wages; and in an age of rising income inequality, driving low wages lower, even if only temporarily, is intolerable. When a house painter getting \$6 an hour is replaced by an immigrant getting \$3, it isn't enough to tell him or her about the eventual benefits of a growing labor pool.

The backlash against skilled immigrants is especially perverse coming, as it does, in an age when high-skill jobs are becoming exportable.

Well, maybe not. But we're not talking about house painters right now. Today's question is: How devastating is the effect of immigration on more highly skilled workers? Consider, for example, the horror stories being circulated by the anti-immigration forces: some company replaces dozens of native-born computer programmers making \$50,000 or \$60,000 with programmers from India or the Philippines who make \$25,000 or \$30,000. Now, as it happens, real-life stories this dramatic almost invariably come from the "H-1B" program for temporary visas, not from the permanent visa program that Simpson wants to cap at 90,000 workers. Still, let's suppose that Simpson's cap on permanent visas really would protect some native-born computer programmers from such a plight. What exactly would have been accomplished?

Almost any programmer — or any other kind of engineer — making \$50,000 or \$60,000 can find another job, if at a salary cut. And any worker making \$50,000 or \$60,000, given a spouse working even part time, has a household income in the upper reaches of the national scale to begin with. I'm not advocating lowering such

salaries as the preferred approach to reducing income inequality. I'm just saying that the downside of high-skill immigration falls short of calamity.

And look at the upside. An immigrant making \$30,000 a year spends a lot more money than an immigrant painting houses for \$3 an hour. He or she eats out, buys a car, has it repaired, maybe even buys a home.

EQUALIZATION

This is no trivial matter. In an age when some kinds of manual labor are migrating to low-wage foreign assembly lines, one kind that can't migrate is the kind that provides inherently local services — carpentry, auto repair, lawn care. And such services are consumed in bulk by relatively affluent workers. Thus high-skill immigrants may doubly serve the cause of income equalization, bidding down high wages and bidding up low ones. And income inequality is supposedly a big concern of immigration reformers.

Another big concern is rampant multiculturalism. Reformers worry about large pockets of Hispanics or Asians who cling to their native tongue and resist assimilation. If this is the problem, well-educated immigrants are part of the solution. They are more likely to speak English and embrace American culture. They won't singlehandedly unify the nation, but they can help ensure that a sizable fraction of all ethnic and religious groups is affluent and culturally integrated.

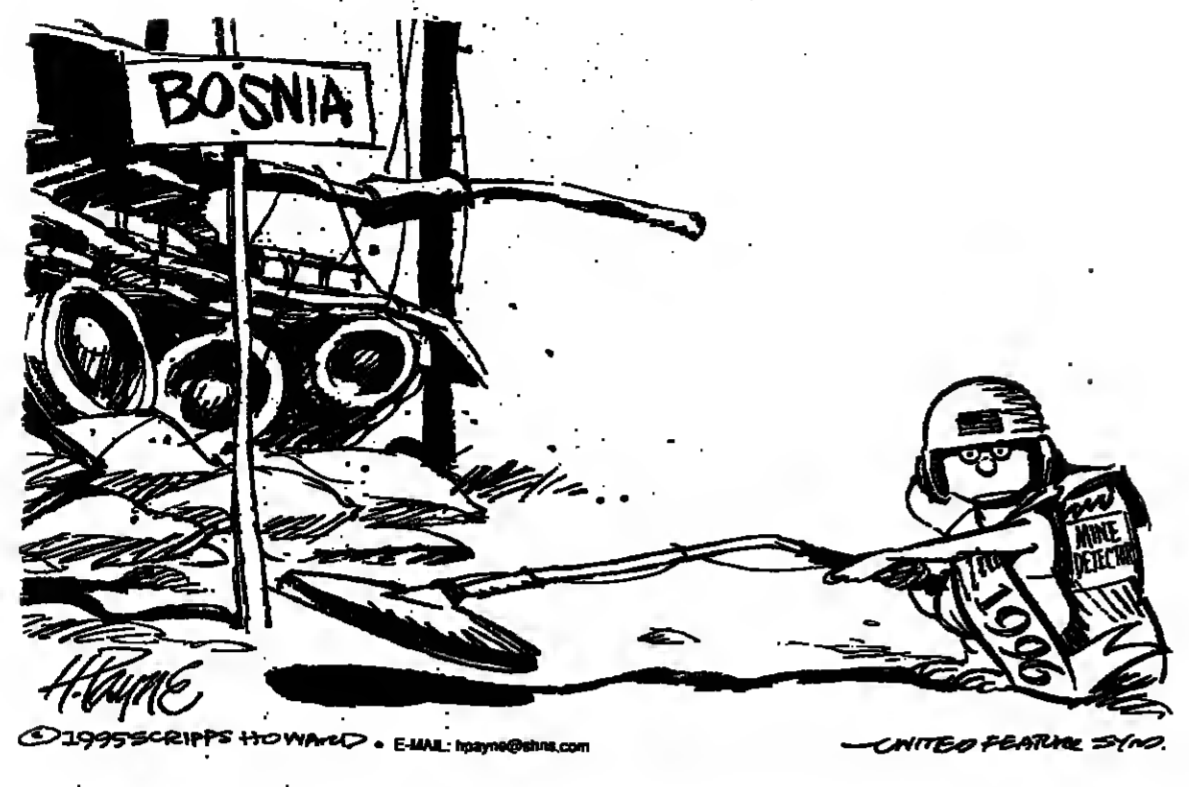
The backlash against skilled immigrants is especially perverse coming, as it does, in an age when high-skill jobs are becoming exportable. American companies are starting to contract out software design and other engineering projects to relatively low-wage workers abroad. Would we rather these workers spent their paychecks overseas or here?

Robert Wright is a senior editor of The New Republic.

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Buchanan's sister plays gender role card

By JENNIFER BRADLEY

There's one presidential campaign in either party that has a woman in charge — and that's Pat Buchanan's, declares the woman in charge, Angela "Bay" Buchanan, sister, adviser and field general of the man whose family, faith and country campaign seems thoroughly inhospitable to women like, well, herself.

The line on Bay Buchanan among conservatives is that she's Bobby Kennedy to Par's JFK — at least, that's what they say when they want to be nice. Off the record, she's accused of not just managing, but micromanaging her brother's campaign and keeping dissent, and access to Par himself, to a minimum. "Bay froze everybody out," complains one observer of the 1992 campaign. "If it wasn't Bay's idea, it wasn't a good idea."

HISTORY

Bay Buchanan has never budged much from the family creed of toughness and togetherness. She caught the political bug early, worked closely with brother Par on the Nixon campaign, and only really rebelled when she married a Mormon lawyer and left the Catholic Church for the Tabernacle.

In 1981, Ronald Reagan, who picked her as treasurer for his 1980 and '84 campaigns, made her the youngest-ever treasurer of the United States. And ever since, her own family life has neither kept her at home nor out of politics.

She's at the helm of the campaign to elect the man who wrote that the birthrate of 1.7 children to each Western woman, compared to the free fertility of "the black, brown and yellow peoples who look to inherit the earth," amounts to "racial suicide" of the "self-indulgent." To elect a man who decries the "assault" on "old institutions and symbols of an heroic if tragic past" such as the Citadel. Who declared, "The Momma Bird builds the nest." Family loyalty aside, what is this supremely modern woman doing?

Ask her about it and she, like so many other conservative women, bristles. "I'm a member of a very traditional church and tradi-

tional values play a very important role in my life. They were instilled in me by my family, and I raise the children, attempting to instill those values in them." She believes government "should encourage those things which we think are healthy in societies, such as families, the ability for people to raise children..." What about mothers who, like her, work? She gets very

home after four hours of work, or six hours, or eight hours, or whatever it is they choose to do and that works for them. I think that what's very important is that we create a society that allows those choices, that a mother can stay home." These are not the politics of Donna Reed but of Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Off the record, she's accused of not just managing, but micromanaging her brother's campaign and keeping dissent, and access to Pat himself, to a minimum.

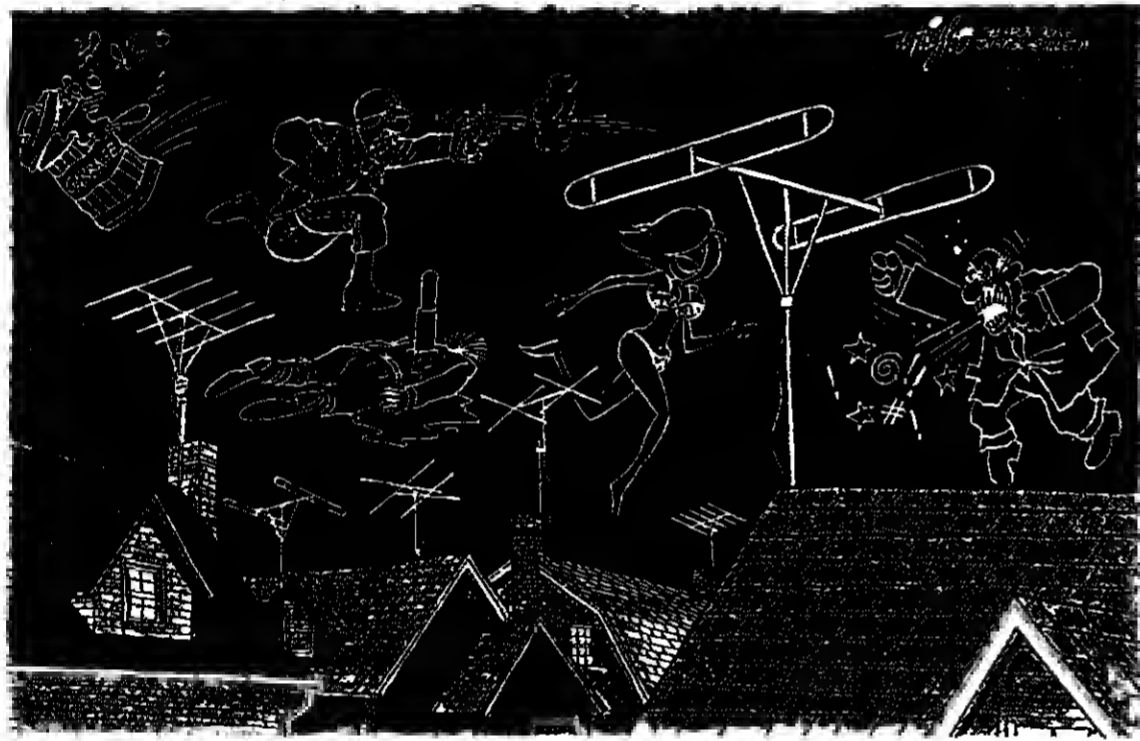
Or so it appears. In fact, Bay Buchanan presents less of a personal and political contradiction than you might think. The woman-in-the-kitchen charge against "traditional values" or "family values" conservatives is largely a liberal stereotype — or, to borrow the infelicitous phrasing of a spokeswoman for the Family Research Council, the woman in the kitchen is a straw man. What conservatives tend to mean when they talk about "family values" these days is not an (increasingly unrealistic) opposition to women working outside the home but to gay rights, abortion and aggressively secular school curricula. The most that Par Buchanan and the Christian Coalition will say on the working woman question is that many or most women would really like to be at home with their children when those children are very young, and that confiscatory tax policies force mothers out of their homes and into the work force. What they secretly acknowledge is that, as Bay Buchanan says, lots of mothers with all kinds of beliefs have to don their power suits or janitors' smocks.

SOCIAL

And yet even when she speaks of her social ideals, Bay Buchanan's family values are curiously gender-neutral. "I think it is an ideal situation, which unfortunately is very difficult to attain in today's society, where you have a parent at home with the children and you have a breadwinner and that they work it out together. However, I do believe strongly that there are many very solid families who have made the decision, because this is what's best for their family, that both work. Maybe for economic reasons, maybe for personal reasons, maybe for personality. I know many women who, if they spend a lot of time at home all day long, by the end of the week, they will not be good mothers. They'd be much better coming

There are lots of reasons to disagree with Bay Buchanan and to disparage the work that she's doing. Par Buchanan is the candidate of the resentful, scared and truculent, the champion of an America that is outwardly wholesome and inwardly ugly. And his sister believes in what he stands for, even calls him one of her heroes. She has put her political skills at the service of a nasty nativism. But she cannot be dismissed as a victim of false consciousness. She is a modern traditional woman. If that seems paradoxical, it is a paradox that is more and more a common fact of American life. It makes liberals uneasy. It doesn't seem to bother her brother at all.

Jennifer Bradley is an assistant editor for *The New Republic*. ©1995, The New Republic



THE OLDEST LIVING CONFEDERATE SENATOR TELLS ALL...



SUNDAY COMICS

Doonesbury

G.B. TRUDEAU



PEANUTS

by Schulz



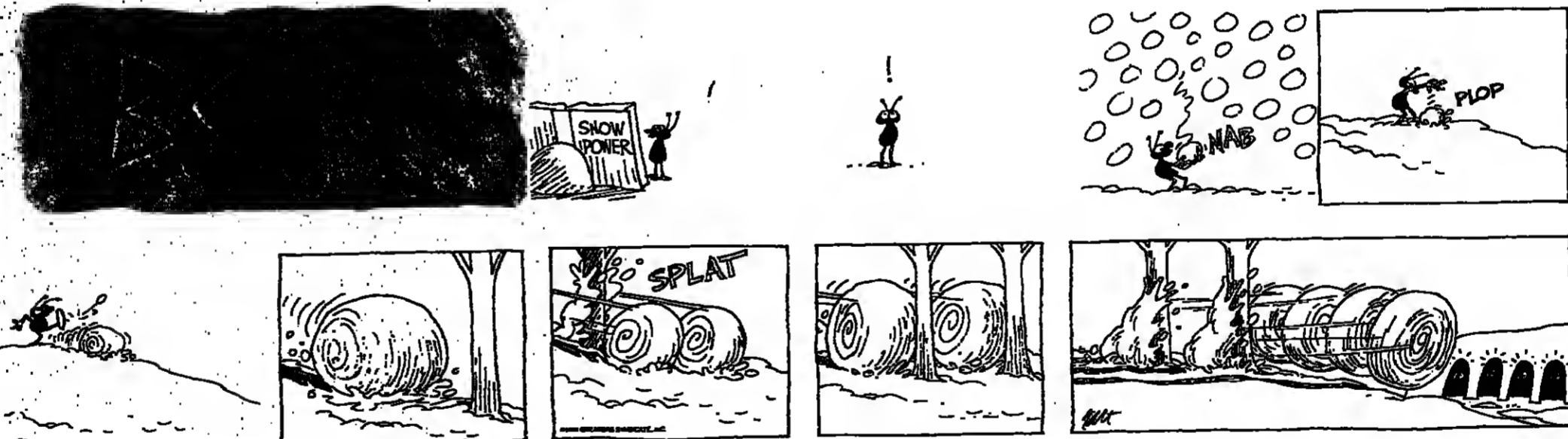
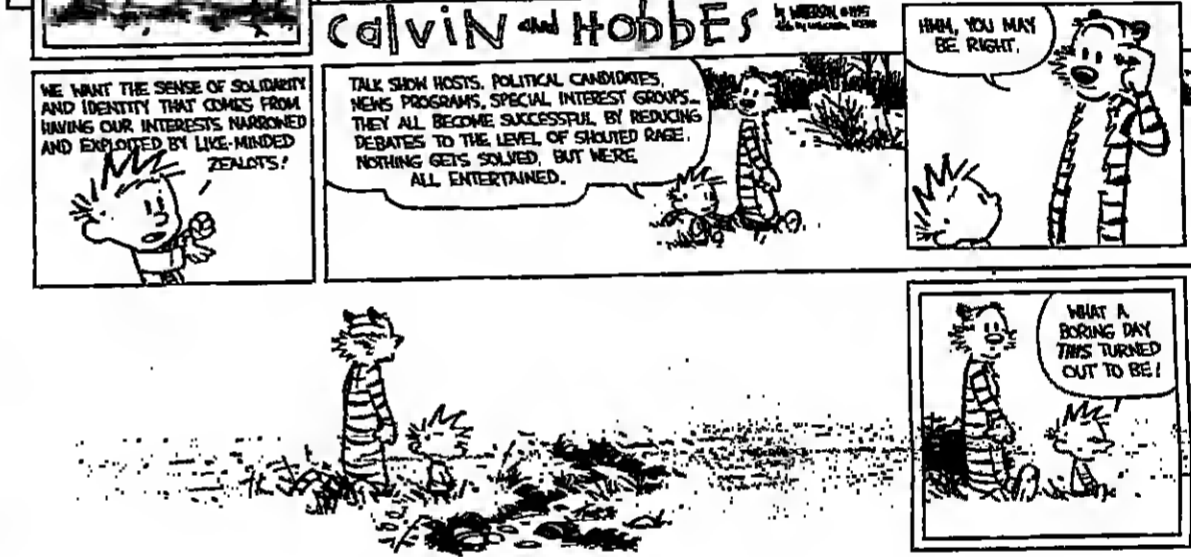
Spe

By Jerry Meyers



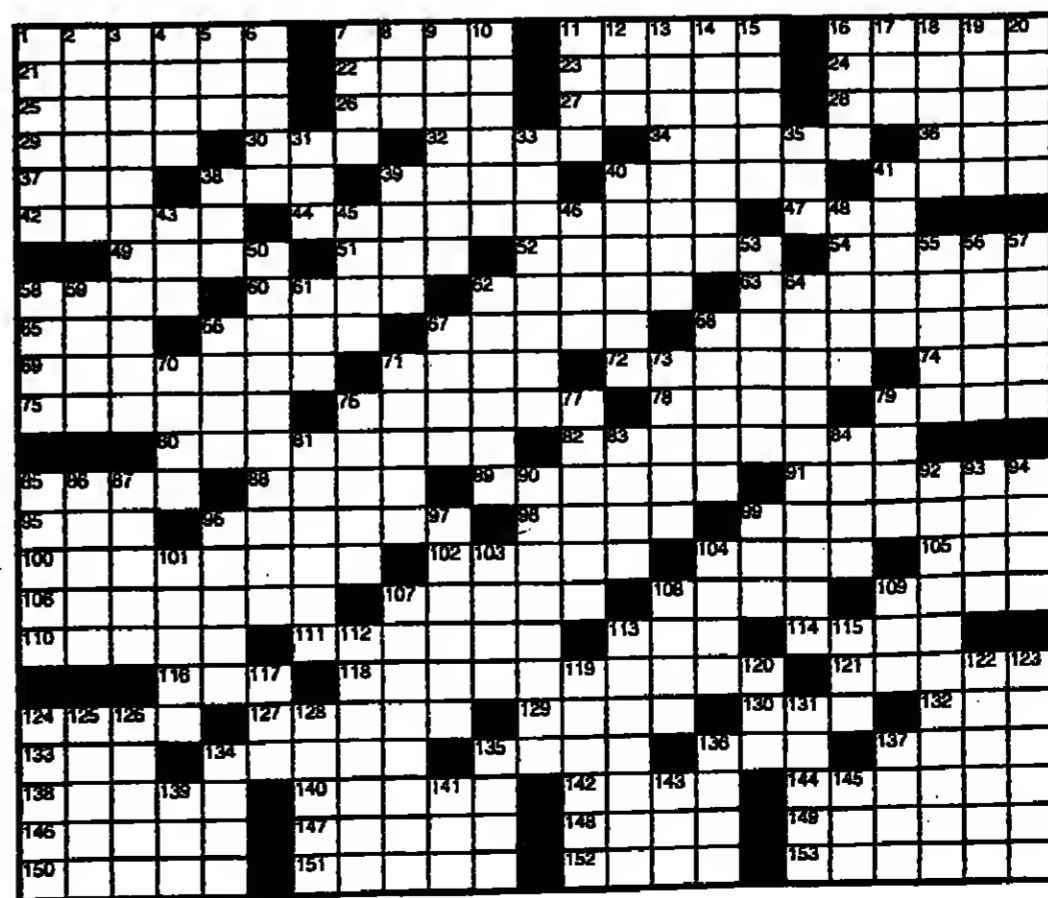
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Watterson



TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Molted (turkey)
 - 7 Only
 - 11 PC adjunct
 - 16 Support
 - 21 Dominion
 - 22 Movie dog
 - 23 Dress shape
 - 24 Take a break
 - 25 Lisa's cousin's name
 - 27 Israeli Golda
 - 28 Hostess Paris
 - 29 Run off to wed
 - 30 Kilar white
 - 31 Cheating professor
 - 32 Leaning Tower site
 - 34 Character
 - 36 Postal credit word
 - 37 Frozen water
 - 38 Coloring matter
 - 39 Sifted
 - 40 Yuletide hotshot
 - 41 English county
 - 42 Upright
 - 44 Tropical woodland
 - 47 Eshwalest
 - 49 Lewman Wyatt
 - 51 Apey
 - 52 Grippled
 - 54 Coup
 - 58 Avelled
 - 60 Chair's brother
 - 62 Throng
 - 63 Try to equal
 - 65 Dismember
 - 66 Onco — a line
 - 67 Embodiment
 - 68 Green orion
 - 69 Pip up
 - 71 Exposed
 - 72 Mail
 - 74 Compass pt.
 - 75 Wobble
 - 78 Hand tool
 - 79 Follower
 - 79 Printer's direction
 - 80 Eye problem
 - 82 Unfavorable
 - 85 Lovers' dish
- DOWN**
- 1 Wisconsin city
 - 2 Plunk with a line
 - 3 Seattle tourist spot
 - 4 Actress Louise
 - 5 Before, to a post
 - 6 Type of horse race
 - 7 Door part
 - 8 Stryke
 - 9 Periodic payment
 - 10 Duty
 - 11 Pamphlet
 - 12 Bright cheer
 - 13 Avastion
 - 14 Mutual agreement
 - 15 Sighted
 - 16 Rabbit
 - 17 Elec. unit
 - 18 Solitary
 - 19 Roasting bowl
 - 20 Put forth
 - 21 Compressive suffix
 - 22 Journey part
 - 23 Slow-witted one
 - 24 The. Gar.
 - 25 Clock face
 - 26 "Ratun to"
 - 27 Ball sound
 - 28 Proverb
 - 29 Prayer writing
 - 30 Uncommon
 - 31 Grow-up
 - 32 Powerless one
 - 33 Poor (wine)
 - 34 Comestible
 - 35 Male amends
 - 36 Principle
 - 37 Worry
 - 38 "What's My?"
 - 39 appetit
 - 40 Contact word
 - 41 Chewed
 - 42 Eye part
 - 43 Nocturnal
 - 44 Poised weapon
 - 45 Deane
 - 46 non-slip food
 - 47 sec. inclined
 - 48 Likely
 - 49 Moved Rat a box
 - 50 Vand
 - 51 Sports
 - 52 Coach's name
 - 53 Norm Peterson's wife
 - 54 Tramped
 - 55 Author — Rogers
 - 56 St. Johns
 - 57 Warning device
 - 58 Honeymooner, most likely
 - 59 Words on bills
 - 60 Indigo dye
 - 61 Philosopher
 - 62 Discourse
 - 63 Fall tower
 - 64 "Ain't That"
 - 65 All's page
 - 66 Group of eight
 - 67 Smeared tale
 - 68 Sleep lightly
 - 69 Benny Goodman's instrument
 - 70 Beverly county
 - 71 Popular sandwich
 - 72 Sir up
 - 73 Chief official
 - 74 Camel grain
 - 75 Motorist's org.
 - 76 Indian tale
 - 77 Gun sp.
 - 78 Castly
 - 79 Part
 - 80 Property
 - 81 Piano part
 - 82 Good music
 - 83 "Good-by" word
 - 84 Jerry's county
 - 85 Fire rescue
 - 86 Jelly's
 - 87 after ego
 - 88 Auth. enclosure
 - 89 Dill purchase
 - 90 Actress Margaret
 - 91 Foot part
 - 92 Lament's lady
 - 93 Children's game
 - 94 The law's is long





Library of Congress also feeling the financial pinch

BY TODD GITLIN

Three times in a single month, the Library of Congress has chosen suppression over exhibition, silencing over debate. First, accused of taking too soft a line on the founding father of psychoanalysis, it postponed a show devoted to Freud and his legacy, claiming financial pressures. Two weeks ago, Library officials dismantled a show on the architecture of slave quarters, "Back of the Big House: The Cultural Landscape of the Plantation," that had already been installed and was about to open because a number of employees, mainly African Americans, found it offensive. If this weren't enough, the Library also removed four anti-lynching cartoons of the '30s and '40s from a current exhibit of graphics. These were "some rather difficult images," Jill Brett, the Library's public affairs officer, told me.

Like all public institutions, the Library is feeling the financial pinch. Not wanting trouble, it doesn't want nasty truth. The result is a severe and chronic cramp in public knowledge. Profiles in cowardice are getting to be conspicuous in the cultural landscape of official Washington. Everyone knows how the Smithsonian, under pressure, gutted the planned exhibit on the dropping of the atomic bombs. After that exercise in turning a blind eye, the Smithsonian postponed serious consideration of a show on the Vietnam War until the turn of the century, the earliest it might appear is the year 2002. The pattern is plain: when symbols inspire protest, don't welcome debate, just run for cover. In the world of the gatekeepers, fear speaks louder than speech.

"Back of the Big House" was the work of Professor John Michael Vlach, who teaches American studies and anthropology at The George Washington University. Professor Vlach has written seven books on African American life and folklore and belongs to a generation of social historians who have made it their business to recover a history hitherto obscured. In his 1993 book, *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*, Vlach used the Library of Congress's own photo archive to reveal the hidden workings of the majestic plantation houses that have falsely been taken to symbolize Southern culture. The Library of Congress then invited Vlach to mount an exhibition — not simply to include it between other stops in its travels, as Librarian of Congress James H. Billington claimed in an official statement.

Professor Vlach has to make inferences about the precise objections to the exhibit, since no one at the Library has communicated a word to him. Those in charge, he says, simply

"disappeared" the exhibition overnight. "If you look at the photos," Vlach told me, "there's nothing prettier up about them. They show slave quarters and work-related sites, with quotes from occupants; where we could find pictures of them. They show the work done in these quarters and the skills the slaves used to create their own culture."

As always in such cases, squeamishness has some local causes. The Library of Congress itself has been called "the big house" by black employees who in 1982 filed a class action suit charging discrimination and won an \$8.5 million settlement (still under appeal by five plaintiffs). Billington says publicly he didn't want to disrupt what he characterized as "considerable progress toward interracial harmony." This progress evidently required the Library to yank the anti-lynching cartoons, three of which were part of a 1935 NAACP-organized show that was described by a New York newspaper critic at the time as "an exhibition which tears the heart and chills the blood.... If it upsets your complacency on the subject it will have been successful."

"There does seem to me a real danger that the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian will stop doing anything of interest."

The deepest question here is, what is the point of a public display? To make us feel good? To keep Americans from knowing that 60 years ago there were cartoons captioned "White revellers at lynching," "Southern United States stained by blood from lynched black man," "About 'Back of the Big House,'" Allene Hayes, president of the Daniel A. P. Murray African American Cultural Association, told Linton Weeks of *The Washington Post* on December 22, 1995: "An exhibit is supposed to celebrate something positive." No wonder America, a nation built on slave labor, lacks a museum of slavery. For that matter, no wonder Berlin is just getting around to a museum of the Holocaust.

Under the sign of the smiley-face theory of public history, our official cultural institutions are cringing. Many curators won't even bother proposing shows likely to prove contentious. "There does seem to me a real danger that the Library of Congress and the Smithsonian will stop doing anything of interest," says Barbara Clark Smith, a curator in the

National Museum of American History's division of social history. "People feel under pressure. There is anxiety about anything that suggests conflict along lines of class, for example, anything in labor history."

The purged exhibits differ, of course, but have this in common: in each case, professional historians ran into flak from outside the profession — from veterans, critics and black employees, respectively. Now it is, in a certain way, a tribute to our civic life that large numbers of citizens lay claims to the common culture. Whether the issue is textbooks or museum shows, citizens want their say. There would be much to applaud if this concern were made manifest through speech. Let the Freud-debunkers publish pamphlets denouncing the show! (Or contribute to the catalog, as they were invited to do.) Let the disgruntled black employees publish their own critique! Alas, naysayers want to deprive others of their say. Censors of left, right and center agree on one thing: the virtue of amnesia.

Edward Linenthal, professor of religious studies at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, and co-editor of the forthcoming book *History Wars*, fears that today "history is supposed to function as identity therapy for all kinds of folks. History museums are becoming the focus because they've become more than cabinets for curiosities. These are public squares." Barbara Clark Smith puts it this way: "The more conversation, the better. But we don't know how to talk with each other about why things offend us. We only know how to say, 'Don't do it.'"

In the kingdom of the self-blinded, the censors delude themselves that we are healthier seeing no evil. We are a nation afraid of our own shadows.

Todd Gitlin's latest book is *The Twilight of Common Dreams: Why America Is Wracked by Culture*.

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SYNDICATE

Speed kills

BY ALAN DERSHOWITZ

The speed nuts have finally succeeded in repealing one of the most sensible laws ever enacted: the congressionally imposed national speed limit of 55 mph, which had been in effect since the 1973 Arab oil embargo. The national speed limit saved both gas and lives. Those legislators who voted for speed over safety will soon have the blood of innocent drivers and passengers on their hands, since increasing the speed limits in several states will increase highway fatalities.

The bloodiest killing field is likely to be Montana, which has simply eliminated numerical speed limits and returned to its pre-1973 rule that "reasonable and proper" speeds must be maintained, leaving the meaning of that vague phrase to the discretion of highway patrol officers. Asked what speed would violate the rule, one officer replied: "Anything in triple digits is probably a ticket." He kids you not, since on the day the new law went into effect, this officer was driving 110 mph to flag down a driver who was ambling along at a snail's pace of only 92 mph. The officer cautioned the driver that he was approaching the speed that could earn him a ticket but that he wasn't there yet.

Any car driving at 92 mph is a lethal weapon waiting to be fired into a crowd. Most cars are not made to drive safely at that speed and few drivers are physically capable of handling a car going that fast in the event of any unanticipated danger — such as a blowout, a break failure or a skid. According to experts, when cars used to travel at such high speeds "engines frequently blew up." Speed limits are designed not for optimal conditions, but rather in anticipation that something will always go wrong with some cars, drivers or highways at sometime. Experts have concluded that the 55 mph limit strikes the appropriate balance among convenience, economy and safety.

These same experts are predicting a "skyrocketing" death toll. In Montana, if the death and injury figures from the pre-1973 era are extrapolated to today's numbers, we could be looking at a 50 percent increase. That increase represents a disproportionate number of young lives snuffed out — in the interest of what? A few saved minutes? As my grandmother used to say: I'd rather be "Mrs. Dershowitz, the late" — than "the late Mrs. Dershowitz."

Proponents of the new congressional highway death law argue that no one used to obey the 55 mph limit anyway, so why not raise it to the speed people actually drive. That sounds like an even better argument for legalizing drugs, since few drug users obey the law anyway, and it is the drug laws — rather than the drugs themselves — which push users into predatory crimes to get money for their artificially expensive fixes. Drug laws protect primarily the users from their own bad habits. Speeding laws, on the other hand, protect the rest of us (as well as the speeder and his family) from the predictable consequences of his dangerous habit.

The "everybody does it anyhow" argument fails for another reason. If people do drive at 65 mph when the speed limit is 55 mph, then many will increase their speed to 75 mph when the speed limit is 65 mph. If slightly higher speed limits were to be accompanied by rigorous enforcement of the higher limit, this argument might have some merit. But there is no reason to believe that police will not continue to apply the rule of thumb, which begins enforcement at about 10 miles over whatever the speed limit happens to be.

There are precious few laws that can actually save lives. The death penalty, "three-strikes you're out" and other tough law-and-order enactments are more posturing than preventive. More lives can be saved by strictly enforcing tough driving laws than by enacting the entire Gingrich anti-crime program. Yet most legislators flex their muscles on tough anti-crime laws — except of course, gun control laws — and take a walk on tough driving laws that could really take a bite out of motor mayhem. That is because everyone hates criminals, but highway speeding is as American as apple pie. The problem is that highway speeders and drunken drivers cause more deaths than all the other criminals combined — except, of course, for cigarette manufacturers. The time has come to get tough with speeding drivers. Repealing the 55 mph national speed limit is the wrong step. I hope the states, which now have the authority to set speed limits, will maintain the 55 mph limit. If they insist on increasing it, let them raise it to 65 mph and enforce that limit at 65, not at 75. Nobody likes to get a ticket for speeding, but a ticket is a lot better than an obituary.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are *"The Advocate's Devil"* (Warner Books) and *"The Abuse Excuse"* (Little, Brown & Company).

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مركز من القبول

Days of the Hasmoneans: A bloody period in Jewish history

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

SIMEON the Hasmonean was slain by his son-in-law, Ptolemy b. Abubus, while visiting Jericho in the year 134 BCE. At that time, Simeon had been at the height of glory as the quasi-independent ruler of Judea in the wake of victory in a hazardous war against the Seleucids of Syria.

Simeon had been formally recognized by a general assembly of Judean worthies as the head of state and the high priest only seven years earlier. Judea had been prospering in the relative calm following many years of hostilities; the future seemed promising.

Simeon had appointed Ptolemy the governor of Jericho and given him his daughter for a wife. However, Ptolemy killed Simeon (and two of his sons) probably to please Antiochus VII, the Seleucid ruler who led a Syrian effort to return Judea to the Syrian fold.

Ptolemy had aimed high, moving up with his host toward Jerusalem. However, another of Simeon's sons, Yohanan (referred to as John Hyrcanus by English writers), beat him to the capital.

Young as he was, Yohanan proved to be a brilliant strategist and encircled Ptolemy's men. But then Antiochus VII moved in with a large army, forcing Yohanan to acknowledge his suzerainty and even participate in Syria's campaign against the Parthians. Only after Antiochus VII was killed in battle was Judea free again.

All this happened after the Hasmoneans freed the Jerusalem Temple and restored the Jewish rites.

We are obliged to Prof. Uriel Rapoport of the Haifa University for this account, which he presents in *Yemot Beit Hashmonai* ("The Days of the Hasmoneans"), published by Yad Ben-Zvi, 336 pp., a collection in which 26 scientists discuss various aspects of the Hasmonean period.

This was a period rich in stormy, often bloody, upheavals, mainly due to the eternal rivalry in the Middle East between the northeast (Syria and Iraq) and southwest (Egypt and Rome). Tiny Judea and its people were squeezed in between, open to foreign influences but somehow retaining their individuality.

Religion was the main, possibly the only, manifest identifying trait in those days, but it was not free of social and political admixture. The Pharisees, who controlled the Temple and its rites, seem to have been popular. However, their opponents, the Sadducees, were allied with the rich and the conservatives who refused to accept fashionable beliefs.

The Pharisees were critical of

Yohanan, charging that the Hasmoneans were not entitled to be high priests because they did not belong to the House of Tzadok, which traditionally held the post. An open rift occurred later, during the rule of his son Alexander Yannai (Jannaeus); and persisted until the end of the Hasmonean dynasty.

Much of the disapproval against the Hasmonean rulers stemmed from their endeavors to follow the pattern of government set up by the Hellenistic rulers in the area, Rapoport observes. Yannai crowned himself, as possibly did his brother Aristobolus. The court of the Judean king in Jerusalem resembled that of the Hellenistic sizers to the last detail. Yannai claimed the authority of an unfettered monarch in every domain of national and religious life. A revolt was imminent.

It occurred in the year 90 BCE, after Yannai suffered defeat at the hands of the Nabateans. Rebels invited Demetrius, the Syrian ruler, to support them against Judea. Demetrius defeated Yannai, but left Yannai in power because he had to hurry back to Damascus to quell a rebellion in his own camp. Yannai's vengeance on the rebels was cruel. He executed some 800 of them - possibly on the cross - after killing their wives and children before their eyes.

All Hasmoneans were warriors, and they both warded off attacks and strove to free Jewish inhabitants from the Hellenist yoke. Yohanan conquered Samaria and vast areas in Transjordan, ordering the Idumeans to convert to Judaism. Indeed, the Idumeans accepted the conversion peacefully, seeing it as a liberation from Hellenism. Two generations later, an Idumean became king of the Jews in Jerusalem.

Yannai also forced conversion upon the local peoples in Galilee, whose inhabitants were largely of a Semitic stock. The citizens of Hellenized towns which fell under Judean rule generally emigrated, many of them to Egypt. Jews of independent spirit, that is, adherents to the letter of the Scriptures, sought safety and peace of mind by retreating to Qumran by the Dead Sea.

And far, far away loomed a new force: Rome. The Maccabees had discovered her early and made a pact with her to counter-balance the Syrian threat. Rome was powerful, but still safely preoccupied with her own worries in Iberia, North Africa and the Balkans. Then sea piracy in the eastern Mediterranean in dueed Rome's Pompey to establish a presence in Syria. And when two Judean princes asked Pompey to arbitrate between them, Rome took Jerusalem.

Photography's wild and psychedelic side

ON CAMERA
DAVID BRAUNER

TODAY computerized manipulation of photography produces some quite "out of this world" results. But photographers have been experimenting in their labs and creating a variety of psychedelic techniques for years.

Under the turbulent influences of the new sciences, technologies and politics that rocked the early 20th century, art responded with movements like Cubism, Dadaism and Surrealism. Pictorial photography, in other words, photography as art, also answered the challenge.

The "straight image" was re-explored and subjected to a whole host of newly developed darkroom techniques. The radical alchemy of the new vision resulted in what one pioneer called "the creation of a more complex and imaginary language of photography."

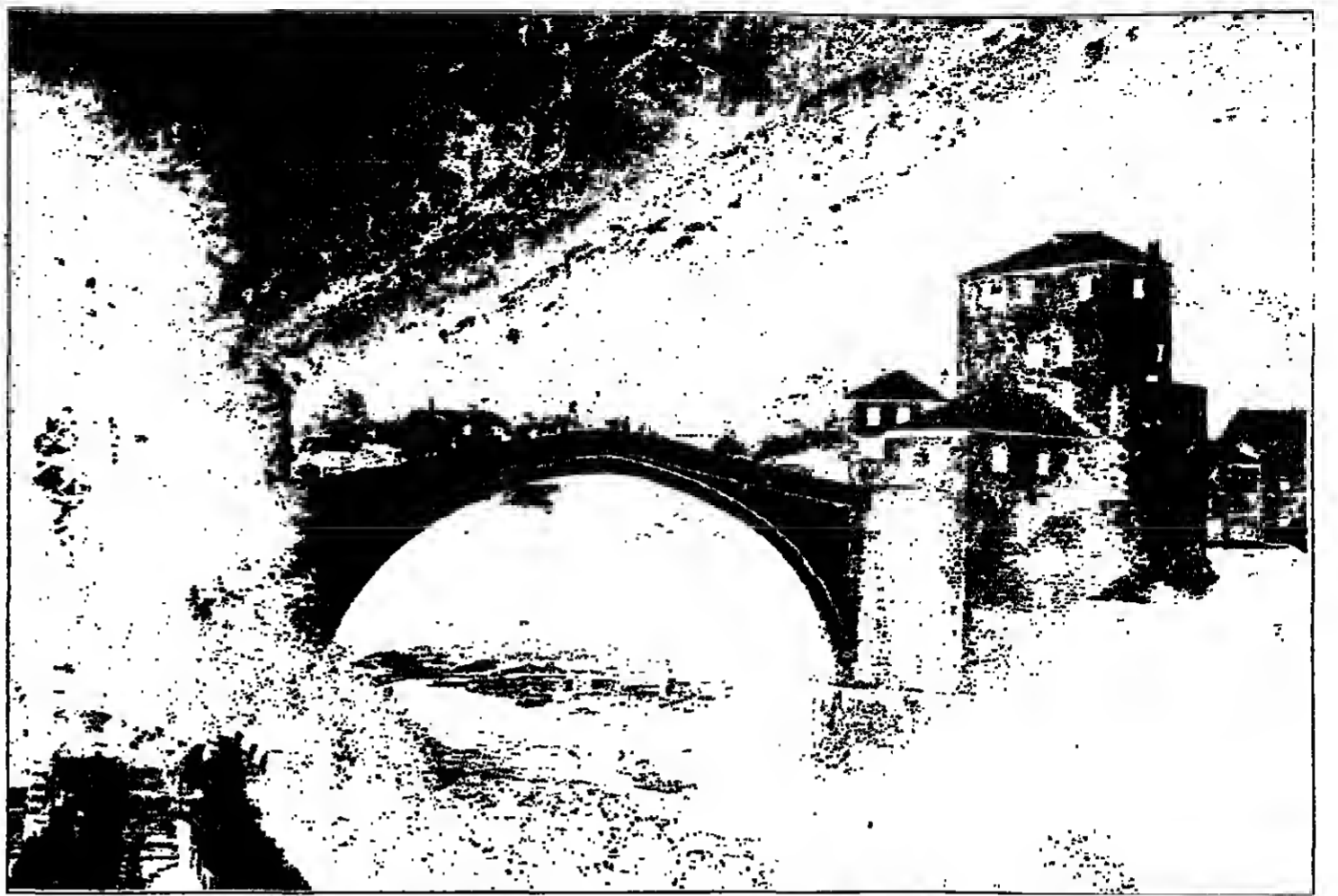
Artists like Laszlo Moholy-Nagy (1895-1947) and Man Ray (Emmanuel Rudnitsky, 1890-1976) experimented widely with multiple exposures, photograms and photomontage.

One such effect, which is still popular, is called solarization. The term solarization is inevitably confused with the so-called Sabattier effect. None of the books in my collection is clear about the differences between the two, or the results that constitute a solarized vs. Sabattier print.

Whatever the case, the image that results from the solarization technique is officially meant to be part positive, part negative. But any striking, artistic line print with less than full tonality of a normal image can count.

There are several methods for making a solarized print. The process, which involves exposing the print to a flash of white light in the development stage, is often described as "a little uncertain."

In other words, it's difficult to control, and the results are never the same twice, but that's the fun of it. One must be in the mood, be prepared to experiment and to



This negative print of a stone bridge from a color slide produces an interesting effect since the colors "filter" the light passing through at different intensities. (David Brauner)

throw away paper. Negatives can also be solarized, but as this is a more complicated process, we will stick to paper solarization.

The process is simple. Start by selecting an uncluttered, contrasty negative, something that makes a "statement," if you like. It can be a color or black-and-white negative.

Print your negative normally on hard contrast (No. 5) paper. Already a certain amount of the mid-grays will disappear.

In darkroom conditions (safe light on), take the dried positive print you have made and place it face down on the emulsion side of another unexposed No. 5 paper. With the picture on top and the fresh paper underneath, expose

for approximately three to six seconds with the enlarger lens wide open.

About halfway through developing, remove the print to a plain water bath. Flick the white light on and off to slightly fog the print, then carry on the development, wash and fix as usual.

For white light, I use an emergency light which I found is easier to control. The reason for removing the print from the developer to the water bath is that the bubbles that are likely to form in the developer tray interfere with the passage of the light.

When you get a solarization right, and it isn't easy, the print will acquire a silvery grayness, reminiscent of 19th-century im-

ages. The black areas will be outlined with so-called Mackie lines. The white Mackie lines will be broadened if the original (positive) print was slightly out of focus.

Using the same method as above, but without the white light exposure, a "negative" print is achieved. Or print a color transparency (slide) on black-and-white paper. Slides produce a negative print, often with interesting effects, because the colors "filter" the light passing through at different intensities.

ANYONE WHO has ever worked in a darkroom knows about photo chemistry stains. The stains, which look like dried

blood, simply do not wash out in regular detergent. I use special lab towels (once they were white) to dry my hands, and wear a smock or an apron to protect my clothes.

In a recent letter on the subject of photo stains, Deena Sattler of Jerusalem, who is a dentist's wife, informs me that "dentists use X-ray chemicals and also have problems with stains."

A number of products with names like Fix-Off remove X-ray and photographic fixer stains, and these are available in Israel from dental supply houses. Check in the yellow pages under "Dental Medicine (Refu'at Shinayim)" - Equipment and Materials.

Environment minister is correct: Animal acts are a form of cruelty

HEADS 'N' TAILS
DYORA BEN SHAUL

EVER since Environment Minister Yossi Sarid announced a few weeks ago that animals can no longer perform as entertainment, a number of people have contacted this column to ask if animal acts really are cruel.

For the most part, they are. While it may be entertaining to see a poodle walking on its hind legs and carrying a basket with its forefoot or a chimpanzee riding a bicycle and dancing in an upright position, these are not natural positions for them.

While an animal can walk this way, it places inordinate stress on its pelvis and lower spine leading, in many cases, to serious disability. The principal reason for retiring performing animals is that they often develop severe sciatic neuralgia or dislocated discs in the lumbar spine; both conditions are extremely painful and seriously incapacitating.

Performing parrots also are victims of true cruelty since these gregarious birds only react with human trainers when denied their normal interaction with

tebrae and shoulders as well as damage to their spines in the hind quarters.

The use of animals for entertainment is almost as old as the history of mankind. Bearbaiting, cockfighting and battles, often to the death, between dogs has been a form of so-called entertainment for centuries, as have bullfighting and other vicious sporting events.

However, as Sarid has declared, the time has come to put a stop to the abuse of helpless animals for what is purported to be entertainment or amusement.

Nor do the beautiful, graceful circus horses escape torment. In order to sustain the artificially arched neck, the chin almost to chest pose and the dancing gait, a variety of sharp curb bits and other restraints are employed. Forced into these totally unnatural stances, horses often develop severe damage in their neck ver-

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Chiefs' storybook season has nasty end

KANSAS CITY (AP) - So much went right for the Kansas City Chiefs this year.

Starting combacks. A bone-crushing defense. One of the best offensive lines around. An aging but still graceful running back in Marcus Allen, who may have played his last game.

The Chiefs went unbeaten at home in a club-record 13-3 season, the first time they have not lost at Arrowhead Stadium since 1971. They swept the AFC West, the first team to do so since the Raiders in 1976.

But Kansas City's joyride ended with a nasty crash last Sunday - a loss to wild card Indianapolis that perhaps cost some players the best chance they will ever have at the Super Bowl.

It happened because of turnovers and kicking - areas of strength for years for the Chiefs, rather than weakness.

And it left coach Marty Schottenheimer 5-10 in playoff games, and still looking for the chance to play for everything after getting his teams into the playoffs in 10 of his 11 seasons as coach of the Cleveland Browns and Chiefs.

"We want to win it for ourselves, but it would be a pleasure to win it for Marty to get that monkey off his back," said line-hacker Derrick Thomas, who teams with end Neil Smith as the centerpieces of the Chiefs defense.

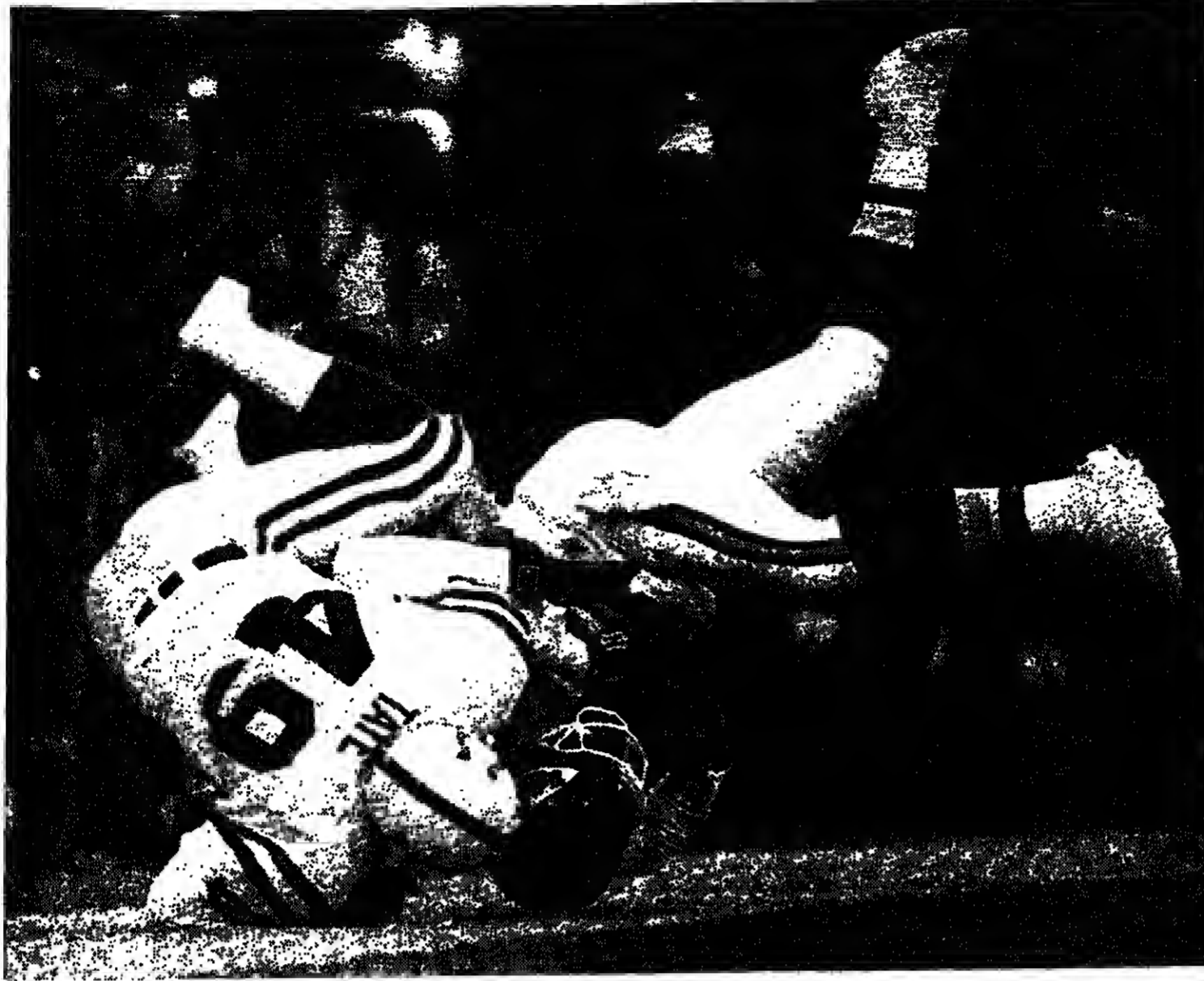
"Marty is the best coach I've ever been with," said tackle Joe Phillips. Last Monday, a day after the 10-7 loss, the Chiefs underwent final physical exams, met individually with Schottenheimer and packed their gear.

Mark Collins, who played on two Super Bowl champions with the New York Giants, decided to pack it in, announcing his retirement.

Allen may make the same decision.

"I'm at a crossroads," said Allen, who gained 94 yards and seemed the most desperate of all to get to the end zone when the Chiefs went to him in the second half last Sunday.

"I really wanted to go on top. I've done this a long time



CHIEFS TAKE A FALL - Kansas City's Lake Dawson is pushed down by Indianapolis's David Tate during the Chiefs-Colts playoff game last Sunday.

and put all my heart into it. That's why it hurts so much."

Left tackle John Alt, whose sturdy blocking protected Joe Montana and Steve Bono, also talked of retirement. He has a bad back and this may have been his last chance at the Super Bowl.

Thomas and Smith may have peaked and this may have been their best chance.

Kansas City certainly still has a good nucleus. The attacking defense installed by new defensive

coordinator Gunther Cunningham ranked first in the NFL in scoring defense (15.1 points per game) and second in total defense (284.3 yards). It also revitalized the careers of tackles Phillips and Dan Saleamua.

On offense, center Tim Grunhard and guard Dave Scott signed new contracts. The Chiefs are still unhappy that tackle Will Shields was not named to the Pro Bowl.

The line helped produced the

league's best rushing offense at 138.9 yards a game.

Kansas City has developing young players in receiver Lake Dawson, whose near miss of a fingertip catch in the end zone last Sunday would have prolonged the season, and defensive back Dale Carter.

Kick returner Tamarick Vanover is an exciting player who was being worked into the lineup more as a receiver in the second

half of the season.

But it was the inconsistency of Bono, who threw three terrible passes for interceptions last Sunday, and three missed kicks by Lin Elliott that put an end to what had been a storybook season.

"It would have been a great way to go out," Collins said. "You work so hard to get home-field advantage and then you (give) it away."

Rhodes guides South Africa to comfortable win over England

Victors up 2-1 in seven-match series

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Jonty Rhodes hit a responsible 44 to hold England's bowlers at bay and guide South Africa to a three-wicket win in their third one-day international at the Wanderers yesterday.

Replying to England's 198 for eight South Africa reached 199 for seven from 48.1 overs to go 2-1 up in the seven-match series.

Rhodes, who scored his runs from 65 balls, rescued his side from 73 for four and underlined his importance to South Africa's World Cup hopes.

Two wickets each for Phillip DeFreitas and Darren Gough had jolted South Africa, but Rhodes added 41 for the fifth wicket with Jacques Kallis and 43 with Brian McMillan for the sixth. When Rhodes was caught behind off Gough in the 39th over only 42 more runs were required and the result was in little doubt.

Earlier England was rocked by an opening spell of three for eight from fast bowler Shaun Pollock and only Neil Fairbrother's 57 not out ensured that the bowlers would have any kind of total to defend.

Pollock found plenty of life in the pitch and accounted for Mike Atherton with the third ball of the innings and the first received by the England captain who had opted to bat first in humid conditions.

Atherton was caught at slip, DeFreitas slogged a catch to mid-off and Pollock's third victim was Robin Smith, lbw padding up to an off-cutter.

The innings deteriorated further to 88 for five before Craig White and Fairbrother came together to add 51 for the sixth wicket. White made 34 off 38 balls and Fairbrother stayed to the end, lofting Richard Snell for six in the final over.

The Lancashire left hander faced 92 balls and hit two fours in addition to the six.

When South Africa began their innings Gough's first over went for 11 runs, but the Yorkshire paceman came back well to finish with three for 31 from his 10 overs.

After the dismissal of Rhodes, McMillan battled with customary élan for 35 from 49 balls before lofting White to mid-off to give England belated hopes of an un-



WHAT A RELIEF - England batsman Craig White lunges for the crease while South African wicketkeeper Dave Richardson prepares for a run-out yesterday. The TV replay showed White was not out.

likely win.

The fourth one-day match is at Pretoria's Century Park today and Atherton said England would again ring the changes in the team.

"We've got five fresh pairs of legs in the dressing room and I believe that any 11 of the 17-man squad can beat South Africa," he said.

Cronje commented: "We made it hard for ourselves by losing wickets, but we were always up with the run rate and I was never really worried."

England
P. DeFreitas c Donald b Pollock 13
M. Atherton c McMillan b Pollock 57
R. Smith lbw b Pollock 9
G. Hick b Donald 14
M. Ramprakash c Richardson b Cronje 27
N. Fairbrother not out 57
C. White c Cronje b McMillan 34
D. Richardson c Richardson b Donald 10
J. Russell c Cronje b Snell 16
Extras (lb-7 w-7 nb-2) 18
Total (for eight wickets - 80 overs) 199
Fall of wickets: 1-19 2-29 3-43 4-73 5-114

199 7-188 8-198
Did not bat: C. Matthews, A. Donald
Bowling: Pollock 10-0-31-3 (nb-1), Matthews 6-0-34-0, Donald 10-0-83-2 (w-4), McMillan 10-0-27-1 (w-2 nb-1), Snell 6-1-29-1, Cronje 6-0-17-1 (w-1)

South Africa
A. Hudson b Gough 7
F. Snel c Fairbrother b DeFreitas 18
D. Cullinan c Russell b DeFreitas 7
D. Cullinan c Russell b Gough 25
J. Kallis run out 16
J. Rhodes c Russell b Gough 44
B. McMillan c Smith b White 35
S. Pollock not out 73
D. Richardson not out 18
Extras (lb-7 w-7 nb-3) 10
Total (for seven wickets - 48.1 overs) 199

Fall of wickets: 1-19 2-29 3-43 4-73 5-114 6-157 7-180
Did not bat: C. Matthews, A. Donald
Bowling: Gough 10-0-31-3 (w-4), DeFreitas 6-0-35-2 (nb-2), Reeve 10-1-43-0 (w-1), Hick 3-0-13-0, Watkinson 9-0-43-0 (w-1), White 8.1-1-26-1 (w-1)
Result: South Africa won by three wickets
First match: Cape Town - South Africa won by six runs
Second match: Bloemfontein - England won by five wickets
Fourth match: Pretoria - Jan. 14
Fifth match: Durban - Jan. 17
Sixth match: East London - Jan. 19
Seventh match: Port Elizabeth - Jan. 21

Knicks continue to dominate Celtics, snap Barros's streak

BOSTON - The old Knicks-Celtics hatred, dormant for a while now, may have just heated up again.

New York ran its win streak against its former nemesis to 13 with a 105-92 victory Friday, and added insult to injury by snapping Boston guard Dana Barros's record streak of three-pointer games in the process.

Patrick Ewing scored 37 points and Anthony Mason added 21 as the Knicks used a 21-15 fourth quarter to seal the win. Ewing had 13 rebounds and Mason added 10 for New York, which has not lost to the Celtics since January 10, 1993.

Dino Radja had 24 points and 11 rebounds for Boston, which lost for the 10th time in 13 games.

Barros saw his NBA record of consecutive games with a three-pointer end at 89. He missed three long-range attempts in the final seconds and nine overall.

Celtics coach M.L. Carr was angry at New York coach Don Nelson for ordering a triple-team on Barros despite having a 13-point lead in the final eight seconds.

"Let's just say I didn't like the way things happened in the end," said Carr, who threw the ball at Nelson as both teams were filing into the locker room. "They had the win and needed to move on. It was bush (league)."

"I thought it was in fun," Nelson said of Carr's ball-throwing. "He's a great guy."

Barros, who was held to eight points on 2-of-12 shooting, wasn't pleased.

"You know, I'm sad," Barros admitted. "I wish it was all going on. Tonight was just something I never wanted to be. I never wanted to be running around out there at the end of the game, trying to get a three."

"But I think the way they did it, our coach got mad and my teammates got mad, so I didn't just say 'forget it' because of all of the stuff they did."

Magic 83, Bucks 88
Dennis Scott scored a season-high 37 points and Antwanne Hardaway had 30 as Orlando rallied to remain unbeaten at home.

Scott's sixth 3-pointer of the night gave the Magic the lead for good with 36 seconds to go. The Atlantic Division leaders improved to 20-0 at home despite playing without Shaquille O'Neal and Horace Grant.

Glenn Robinson had 16 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter and had 11 rebounds for Milwaukee, which

lost its fourth straight. Vin Baker had 29 points and 11 rebounds.

76ers 107, Nets 80
The host New Jersey Nets had the lowest scoring first half in franchise history in a loss to the Philadelphia 76ers.

The Nets, who missed 22 of their first 25 shots, scored just 27 points in the first two quarters.

Philadelphia never led by fewer than 13 in the second half as it won its seventh game of the season. Derrick Alston had a career-high 23 points and Vernon Maxwell added 21.

Kenny Anderson had 19 points and Armon Gilliam 18 for the Nets.

Bullets 117, Kings 88
George Murrain had 18 points and 16 rebounds and Juwan Howard scored a season-high 29 as the host Bullets sent the Kings to their sixth straight road loss.

Tim Legler scored 13 off the bench as the Bullets, who have won six of nine, enjoyed their biggest blowout of the season despite playing without injured starters Chris Webber, Calbert Cheaney and Robert Pack.

(Reuters, AP)

FRIDAY'S RESULTS:
New York 105, Boston 92
Philadelphia 107, New Jersey 80
Washington 117, Sacramento 88
Orlando 83, Milwaukee 88
Dallas 140, Phoenix 139 (OT)
Denver 95, Charlotte 83
San Antonio 101, Utah 94
Seattle 113, Miami 81
Golden State 104, Vancouver 95
L.A. Lakers 101, Houston 100

THURSDAY'S RESULTS:
Atlanta 87, Toronto 79
Detroit 95, Charlotte 95
Indiana 94, Milwaukee 88
Phoenix 111, Golden State 106
L.A. Clippers 109, Minnesota 89

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Otlando	27	7	794	-
New York	22	11	267	4.5
Washington	18	15	259	9
Miami	18	17	499	10.5
Boston	14	20	412	13
New Jersey	13	20	394	13.5
Philadelphia	7	25	219	19

Central Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Chicago	29	3	906	-
Indiana	20	18	808	8.5
Purdue	18	15	547	2
Detroit	17	19	591	12
Atlanta	18	17	485	13.5
Charlotte	18	18	471	14
Milwaukee	12	22	283	18
Toronto	9	25	236	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
San Antonio	23	9	719	-
Houston	24	12	385	5
Utah	22	12	547	2
Denver	19	19	457	6.5
Dallas	10	23	203	13.5
Minnesota	8	25	243	15.5
Vancouver	5	29	171	18.5

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct.	GB	
Seattle	19	10	706	-
Sacramento	12	17	613	3.5
Portland	19	17	528	8
L.A. Lakers	18	17	471	9
Golden State	18	18	456	8.5
Phoenix	14	18	436	9
L.A. Clippers	15	20	429	9.5

Title game new ground for Packers

GREEN BAY (AP) - The Green Bay Packers will be on familiar ground today for the NFC Championship against the Dallas Cowboys, having lost five times at Texas Stadium since 1993.

And yet, this is all so new.

Whereas the Cowboys are making their fourth straight final four appearance, the Packers are playing in their first NFC title game since beating the Cowboys in the fabled "Ice Bowl" in 1967.

Only nine players on the Packers' 53-man roster have played in a conference championship, and only five of those were starters at the time: linebacker Fred Strickland with the Rams in 1989, quarterback Jim McMahon with Chicago in '85 and '89, receiver Mark Ingram with the New York Giants in 1990, and guard Harry Galbreath and tight end Keith Jackson with Miami in 1992.

"There's something you have to talk about and deal with there," said Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren, who has led the Packers (13-5) to four straight winning seasons for the first time since the Vince Lombardi era.

"I wouldn't call it a problem. But it is something that is on my checklist to cover because there was such a euphoric state after the win" over defending Super Bowl champion San Francisco, Holmgren said. "But a couple of the guys recognized the fact that there is still the possibility of a couple more ballgames."

The Packers have won eight of their last nine. On Christmas Eve, they won their first NFC Central title in 23 years by beating the Pittsburgh Steelers, the team favored to represent the AFC in the Super Bowl.

After manhandling the Atlanta

Falcons 37-20 in the wild card round, the Packers stunned San Francisco, the team most people thought the Steelers would see in the Super Bowl in Tempe, Arizona, on January 28. That run has given the Packers the feeling that this is their year, even if they're not as talented as the Cowboys.

"We can taste it," said flanker Robert Brooks, who broke Sterling Sharpe's team record with 1,497 receiving yards. "I mean, I can feel it. I don't know if you guys can feel it, but I can feel it."

Brooks said their 27-17 thumping of the 49ers instilled a confidence the Packers lacked in previous trips to Texas.

"Now we know how good we are," Brooks said.

"If we execute, don't turn the ball over, we're tough to beat," split end Anthony Morgan said.

The Cowboys have ended the Packers' season the last two years with 27-17 and 35-9 playoff wins.

But quarterback Brett Favre said the difference this time is that the Packers aren't expecting to lose. Favre said the last two seasons guys were satisfied just getting to Dallas and were thinking about offseason hunting trips instead of an upset.

The Cowboys are 9-point favorites this time, but "we expect to be in this game and we expect to beat Dallas," Favre said.

Holmgren said he senses the new fearlessness that emerged from the upset in San Francisco, the first for a double-digit underdog in the playoffs since Kansas City shocked Minnesota 23-7 in Super Bowl IV.

"I think after winning that game, they should feel different," he said. "San Francisco was the defending world champion."

Determined Steelers have 'unfinished business' in game against Colts

PITTSBURGH (Renter) - If ever there were a playoff team that could inspire overconfidence in an opponent, it surely must be the Indianapolis Colts.

It defies all logic that a team that barely sneaked into the playoffs with a 9-7 record needs only a win today to reach the NFL's promised land - the Super Bowl.

The San Diego Chargers likely regarded the Colts as a wild card game warm-up before taking on the big boys. And the 13-3 Chiefs, who had not lost a game in Kansas City all season, must have had visions of cake walk dancing in their heads as they prepared for Indianapolis.

Unfortunately for this Cinderella team of overachievers, the Pittsburgh Steelers are determined not to allow anyone else to take their place at the ball - not again.

At this time last year the Steelers were busy celebrating their good fortune and making plans for a big Super Bowl party in Miami. The only problem was they had not yet beaten San Diego for the AFC title.

Committing the cardinal sin of believing their own press clippings, the overconfident Steelers saw the San Diego game as more of a coronation than a contest. They ended up three yards shy of the big game in an embarrassing 17-13 defeat.

There were no celebratory cigars or plans for a Super Bowl video following Pittsburgh's 40-21 playoff win over the Buffalo Bills last Saturday.

"Our motto is 'We have unfinished business,'" said Steelers cornerback Camell Lake of the bitter taste and empty feeling left by last season's premature ending.

Again heavily favored to reach the Super Bowl, the Steelers, with a ferocious defense led by outstanding linebacker Greg Lloyd and a balanced offensive attack, are all business this time around.

And that spells trouble for the Colts, a club hoping their improbable dream will last just a little longer.

"We are a band of ragamuffins," said Indianapolis quarterback Jim Harbaugh. "This is more than a dream."

But they surely believe anything is possible after stunning the overwhelmingly favored Chiefs 10-7 without the services of their best player - injured running back Marshall Faulk - to reach today's AFC title game.

True, the Colts were helped by the abysmal play of Chiefs quarterback Steve Bono and place kicker Lin Elliott, who missed three field goals in as many tries.

But the Colts no-name defensive corps played an inspired game against Kansas City, shutting down the league's top-rated running game and holding the Chiefs to just one touchdown.

Unlike the NFC title game, which features great passers with real star quality in Dallas's Troy Aikman and Green Bay's Brett Favre, the AFC finalists are led by unspectacular quarterbacks with a knack for getting the job done.

At the heart of the Colts' dream run is Harbaugh. Thought to be a has-been and relegated to back-up at the start of the season, Harbaugh has enjoyed an amazing rebirth.

Containing Harbaugh, at his most dangerous when scrambling out of the pocket, will be Pittsburgh's primary concern.

Running Pittsburgh's offense is Neil O'Donnell, who is equally comfortable handling the ball to Bam Morris, who ran for 106 yards and two touchdowns against Buffalo, or airing it out to receivers Yancy Thigpen or Ernie Mills.

Pittsburgh is out to renew a grand Super Bowl tradition. The mighty Steelers of the 1970s won four Super Bowls in a six-year span - the last following the 1979 season.

The Colts, a team that had not approached respectability since they played in Baltimore with star quarterback Johnny Unitas, are in their first AFC Championship since the 1971 season. Their last Super Bowl appearance was 25 years ago.

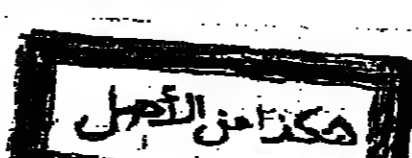
"I was rooting for the Colts in order to play here," said Pittsburgh coach Bill Cowher, whose team would have played on the road today had the Chiefs won last weekend.

"Now I'm not so sure. All season they have won games they aren't supposed to."

Report: Harlequins want Lomu

LONDON (Reuters) - London club Harlequins is prepared to pay any price to sign New Zealand winger Jonah Lomu, according to a report in yesterday's Daily Mail.

The report says Lomu's manager Phil Kingsley Jones is prepared to give the 136-year-old club first refusal on the All Black, which proved the most exciting player at last year's World Cup.



Shearer goal ends Blackburn's away jinx

LONDON (Reuters) - A late goal from England marksman Alao Shearer gave champions Blackburn Rovers a 1-0 victory at Queen's Park Rangers on yesterday for their first away win in the league this season.

Coincidentally, it was Rovers first away success in the championship since they beat the London side last April, and the three points lifted them to eighth place, their highest position since they won the title.

There was no change at the top with leaders Newcastle not playing Coventry until today.

Second-placed Manchester United dropped two home points after drawing 0-0 with Aston Villa which left the team six points behind the leaders having played two more games.

Tottenham moved up to third after beating Manchester City 1-0 at home thanks to a second-half header from Chris Armstrong.

Liverpool slipped to fourth after drawing 1-1 at Sheffield Wednesday where Ian Rush's 87th minute goal canceled out Dado Kovic's seventh minute opener.

Bottom club Bolton won for the first time in 12 league matches, beating Wimbledon 1-0 through a 44th minute John McGinlay penalty. Wimbledon

finished with 10 men after Robbie Earle was sent off just before half-time.

Arsenal moved up a place to fifth following its 3-2 win at Middlesbrough in a thrilling match which saw Dutchman Glenn Helder score Arsenal's winner after 62 minutes - his first goal for the Gunners after 36 appearances.

Brazilian Juninho canceled out Paul Merson's seventh minute opener for Arsenal with his second goal for Middlesbrough since his £4.5 million move from Sao Paulo in October and Phil Stamp put the home side ahead early in the second half.

England skipper David Platt equalized for Arsenal two minutes later before Helder scored. Middlesbrough's disappointment was complete as the team ended with 10 men after substitute Alan Moore was sent off in the last minute.

Chelsea also ended its 1-1 draw at Everton with only 10 men after Mark Hughes - who nearly signed for Everton last year - was sent off for dangerous play in the second half.

John Spencer's 20th minute opener gave Chelsea the lead with David Unsworth equalizing

FIRST DIVISION: Crystal Palace 1, Ipswich 1; Derby 3, Reading 3; Luton 3, Southend 1; Millwall 1, Port Vale 2; Oldham 0, Barnsley 1; Portsmouth 3, Grimsby 1; Stock 1, Leicester 0; Tranmere 1, Sheffield United 1; Walsall 0, Huddersfield 1; West Brom 0, Wolverhampton 0.



HELD UP - Manchester United's Andy Cole tries to regain control of the ball after a challenge from behind by Aston Villa's Ugo Ehiogu at Old Trafford yesterday.

SECOND DIVISION: Bradford 1, Brighton 3; Bristol City 3, Crewe 2; Burnley 4, Stockport 3; Carlisle 1, Chesterfield 1; Hull 1, Rotherham 4; Oxford United 2, Brentford 1; Peterborough 4, Bournemouth 5; Swans 2, Bristol Rovers 2; Walsall 3, Shrewsbury 0; Wrexham 1, Blackpool 1; Wycombe 1, Notts County 1; York 2, Swindon 0.

THIRD DIVISION: Chester 1, Bury 1; Colchester 3, Barnet 2; Duxbury 1, Torquay 0; Exeter vs. Hartlepool (postponed rain); Fulham 3, Scarborough 0; Gillingham 2, Lincoln 0; Hereford 5, Cambridge United 2; Leyton Orient 1, Mansfield 0; Northampton 1, Cardiff 0; Preston 3, Plymouth 2; Rochdale 1, Darlington 2; Scunthorpe 3, Wigan 1.

for Everton from the spot 16 minutes later after Romanian defender Dan Petrescu fouled Everton's Swedish winger Anders Limpar.

The most astonishing dismissal concerned veteran Lee Chapman, hack on loan at Leeds where he won a championship medal in 1992.

Nottingham Forest stayed in touch with the leaders after beating Southampton 1-0.

SCOTTISH PREMIER: Hearts 2, Falkirk 1; Kilmarnock 3, Hibernian 2; Motherwell 6, Partick 2; Rangers 4, Raith 0.

Table with columns P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various teams in the Scottish Premier League.

Hap. Jerusalem increases lead at top of Div. 2

ORI LEWIS

Hapoel Jerusalem has increased its lead at the top of the Second Division in two points after the 14th round of action was completed this weekend.

The Jerusalemites, playing at Teddy Stadium on Friday afternoon failed to impress against lowly Maccabi Kiryat Gat, but despite their lackluster performance managed to hold on for a 2-1 win in front of 3,000 spectators.

Offer Digni scored a goal in each half for the hosts, with Haim Mahai replying for Kiryat Gat in the first half.

Hapoel Taiba regained second spot in standings with a comfortable 2-0 win over Maccabi Yavne. Yaish Suissa set up both goals with high crosses into the area, the first was headed home by Bahajot Ouda and the second by Ciprian Pura.

Hakoah Ramat Gan, dropped from second to third spot after managing only a 1-1 draw with Maccabi Netanya in Netanya. The hosts took the lead in the first half through Constantin Marco, but had to settle for a share of the points when Nir

Menabem equalized for Hakoah 10 minutes from time, by then Netanya was a man short after having Yaniv Lavi sent off for a second bookable offense.

Yossi Eisenberg scored a hat-trick for Ironi Ashdod in its away match against Ness Ziona. The loss sinks the hosts into the danger zone.

SECOND DIVISION

Table with columns W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various teams in the Second Division.

After 14 rounds

Table with columns W, D, L, F, A, Pts for various teams in the Second Division.

This week's winning Sports Toto: 2, 3, 5, 9, 16, 25, 31.

UEFA slaps ban on Tottenham, Wimbledon

LONDON (AP) - Premier League clubs Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon were banned from European competition for one year Friday for fielding weak teams in the Intertoto Cup.

European soccer's governing body UEFA said the clubs were punished for "their inadmissible attitude" toward last summer's inaugural preseason Intertoto Cup.

UEFA said in a statement that Tottenham and Wimbledon had violated rules binding clubs to "conduct themselves according to the principles of loyalty and integrity, and in a sporting manner."

The sanctions will remain in force for a five-year period. UEFA said it was also reprimanding Sheffield Wednesday, the third English club that competed in the Intertoto Cup, for a "similar, less serious infringement" of the rules.

Spurs and Wimbledon said they would appeal. The Football Association and the Premier League said they would support the clubs.

UEFA recently withdrew one place from English clubs for next season's UEFA Cup as punishment for the country's attitude toward the Intertoto Cup - whose top four finishers qualify for the UEFA Cup.

Tottenham and Wimbledon were reluctant entrants in the new competition and fielded young, inexperienced and weakened sides.

Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar blamed a "very big misunderstanding" for UEFA's ban and expressed confidence it would be overturned.

"We entered into the Intertoto Cup by way of a favor to the Football Association and Premier League," he said. "We received permission from them to play a weaker team and even to use players from other clubs and play at other club's stadiums," Sugar said.

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Johnson signs as Dolphins' coach

DAVIE, Florida (AP) - Jimmy Johnson signed a four-year deal Thursday as head coach of the Miami Dolphins, returning to South Florida as the NFL's richest coach.

Johnson, who replaced coaching great Tom Landry in Dallas and won two Super Bowls for the Cowboys, takes over in Miami for Don Shula, the league's winningest coach.

Dolphins owner H. Wayne Huizenga said Johnson had signed an \$8 million contract for four years. Shula had been the NFL's highest-paid coach this past season with a salary estimated at \$2 million.

"It's indeed a pleasure for me to be back in South Florida, to be coach of an organization that I've admired for some time ... and that's the reason I'm in here," Johnson said.

Shola, a part owner of the team, was traveling in Arizona and not at the news conference but Huizenga said the former Dolphins' coach "heartily supports this decision."

"Johnson," 52, said he spoke with Shula and "he wants to give input, do whatever it takes to make this organization the very best."

"It's a positive step," quarterback Dan Marino said. "He's a guy that may get us to the point where we can win a championship, and that's everybody's goal."

"This makes the Dolphins a very dangerous team," Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith said. "It's also going to make them a very lean team. Jimmy's going to go in there and trim out all the fat - the guys just sitting around collecting checks. If I were some of those guys, I'd be a little worried."

GUESS WHICH?

Which is the only team to be undefeated in conference championship games?

- NY Giants
Buffalo Bills
Cincinnati Bengals
San Diego Chargers
Answer tomorrow.

Answer to Friday's "Guess Which?" Roger Staubach was nicknamed the "Wrecking Crew" as a college player and went on to win the Heisman trophy.

Agassi has easy start in Australian Open

MELBOURNE (AP) - Andre Agassi ought to be able to sleepwalk through his first few matches in defense of his Australian Open title.

For Pete Sampras, the wake-up call begins in the first round. Sampras got hit Friday by the toughest draw among the top seeds in tomorrow's Australian Open as he bids for a third straight Grand Slam title.

Sampras, whose No. 1 ranking is up for grabs by No. 2 Agassi and No. 3 Thomas Muster, plays Australian Richard Fromberg in the first round and could play a much tougher Australian, Mark Philippoussis, in the third round.

Sampras won three of his four matches against Fromberg, but all have been close. Philippoussis, a Melbourne native of Greek heritage, nearly toppled Sampras in a close four-setter at the US Open last September.

If Sampras, who is still congested and tired from the flin he caught two weeks ago, gets past those early threats, he's seeded to meet No. 7 Thomas Enqvist or No. 10 Goran Ivanisevic in the quarters and No. 3 Boris Becker in the semis.

"Pete sometimes can be vulnerable the first week," Brad Gilbert, Agassi's coach, said. "He's been a little sick and hasn't played that much. I look for him to have some tougher matches than Andre, but once he gets through the first week he's a different player."

Agassi, who beat Sampras in the final last year, has a much easier path to help him work back into shape after a three-month

layoff caused by a pulled chest muscle. Agassi opens against a qualifier, then would likely face fellow American Vince Spadea. Agassi's toughest seeded opponents before the semis would be No. 8 Jim Courier, No. 9 Wayne Ferreira or No. 15 Todd Martin.

"The key for Andre is just to get through the first week," Gilbert said. "He gets through the first week, he should be all right. You can't win 21 sets in the first match. Once he gets to the second week, there's a lot of good things that could happen."

No. 5 Michael Chang also has a relatively easy start, though in the fourth round he could face former champion Stefan Edberg, who is playing his last year on the tour. If Chang gets by that, he's seeded to face Muster in the quarters and Agassi in the semis.

The National Sports Book in Australia, where sports betting is legal, listed Sampras as a 5-4 favorite before the draw. Agassi was 3-1, Becker and Goran Ivanisevic 10-1 each. Philippoussis was listed at 100-1.

Monica Seles was the odds-on 1-2 favorite among the women in the absence of injured Steffi Graf, and her draw did nothing to hurt her chances of a fourth Australian Open title. Seles, who last played this event in 1993, starts against a qualifier and should breeze through to the semifinals, where she's seeded to meet No. 3 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Defending champion and No. 4 seed Mary Pierce is in the same quarter with No. 5 Kimiko Date, and is seeded to meet No. 2 Conchita Martinez in the semis.

Smashnova, Ran Israel's contestants in Melbourne

HEATHER CHAT

ANNA Smashnova and Eyal Ran, the Israeli representatives at the Australian Open which begins tomorrow in Melbourne, are both up against stern opposition. Smashnova, currently ranked at 73 in the world, will play Natasha Zvereva from Belarus, the 12th seed.

So far this year, Smashnova has not shown great form, having lost in the first round to Li Fang from China (80) and Germany's Sabine Hack in tournaments in Auckland and Hobart, Tasmania respectively.

Ran lost his third round match of the qualifying round to Frenchman Thierry Guardia 3-6, 7-6, 3-6 but found his way into the main draw as a lucky loser after Switzerland's Marc Rosset withdrew from the event with a hand injury. Rosset sustained the injury when he punched an advertising board during the final of the Hopman Cup event in Perth last week.

Ran will meet Russian Andrei Cherkasov who, despite his current position of 186 against Ran's 160, is an experienced player who has been ranked as high as 13 in the world.

Noam Behr also reached the third round of the qualifying event where he lost to Sweden's Magnus Norman, 6-2, 6-1. He will play no further part in the tournament.

Nigeria faces World Cup ban

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - Nigeria faces being barred from playing in the 1998 World Cup qualifiers after failing to arrive for the African Nations Cup which started in South Africa yesterday, FIFA has announced.

FIFA general secretary Joseph Blatter said any ban placed on Nigeria for withdrawing from the Nations Cup finals will be extended to all FIFA competitions, including the World Cup.

Nigeria has been threatened with a four-year ban from African competition by the Confederation of African Football for their withdrawal from this year's Nations Cup finals.

But an official decision on punishment for Nigeria will only be officially announced this week, CAF said.

"If there is any sanction enforced by CAF against Nigeria then it is obvious that FIFA will have no other alternative but to extend that sanction to all its competitions," Blatter said.

Nigeria, which is the defending champion, withdrew from the 16-team competition citing safety concerns for its team in South Africa. The move followed South Africa's strong condemnation of the execution of nine human rights activists in Nigeria in November.

CLASSIFIEDS

Real estate classifieds including DWELLINGS, RENTALS, and SERVICES. Listings for various properties in Jerusalem and other areas.

Real estate classifieds including DWELLINGS, RENTALS, and SERVICES. Listings for various properties in Sharon Area, Haifa, and other regions.

Stocks slip Last-minute dip

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks ended Friday's session slightly lower after failing to extend Thursday's recovery gains.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks was down 3.98 points to 5,061.12 at the close. The blue-chip index opened stronger, got pushed sharply lower by sell programs in late morning, but pared its losses along with bonds through the early afternoon.

The 30-year US Treasury bond was unchanged with its yield at 6.14 percent, wiping out an earlier loss of \$5 per \$1,000 face value. But shorter maturities were higher amid hopes of a breakthrough in deadlocked budget talks in Washington.

Technology stocks were hit hard again, reversing Thursday's bounce back into positive territory. But drug stocks moved higher in a flight to recession-resistant names.

Oil stocks fell as oil futures dropped. Gold stocks also fell with gold prices.

Declining issues led advances by about 10 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,099 up, 1,206 down and 779 unchanged. Big Board volume totaled 376.81 million shares at the close vs. 407.62 million Thursday.

The NYSE's composite index fell 0.33 to 322.95. Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 0.86 to 601.83. The Nasdaq composite index fell 1.47 to 1,009.63.

LONDON (Reuters) - Equities closed a nervous session slightly higher as a double-digit gain was erased in the final 30 minutes of trade by a weaker Wall Street.

The FTSE 100, which traded as high as 3,669.9 during the session, finished 2.4 points higher at 3,657.3, down 47.2 on the week.

FRANKFURT - Shares ended floor trade at a record closing level, bolstered by a strong German debt market and views the Bundesbank may be forced to cut rates due to bleak economic data. The 30-share DAX index ended up 26.94 points at 2,356.45, a gain of 24.57 from last weeks close, eclipsing the prior record high

close of 2,349.66 from last Tuesday. The market drifted sideways in the post-bourse session to close late dealings at 2,339.89 - a record close for IBIS trade.

PARIS - Shares finished with moderate gains after six consecutive falls. The CAC-40 index closed up 9.74, at 1,907.59, but down 10.13 points from last week.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks gave up early gains to end lower on Friday as market participants took profits and adjusted positions. The 225-share Nikkei average dropped 90.50 points to 20,287.42 a fall of 38.61 on the week.

A good day for the dollar

CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Weakness in the German economy helped the American dollar rise against the mark and thus against most other major currencies Friday in choppy trading cut short by continued bad weather in the US Northeast.

The dollar also rose against the Japanese yen, but analysts said that mainly was a sympathy move in tandem with the dollar's rise

against the mark. By the close, the dollar fetched 1.4420 marks, up from 1.4408 at the same time Thursday. The dollar rose against the yen to 105.20 yen, vs. 104.77 yen Thursday.

The British pound was quoted at \$1.5460, up from \$1.5440. In London, gold closed at \$399.15 per ounce, up from \$399.00. Silver closed at \$5.50 a troy ounce, up from \$5.49.

Bracing for profit data

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) - After a long string of pleasant surprises, the stock market is bracing for some sobering quarterly profit statistics from American corporations.

Beginning with the final three months of 1994, companies dazzled stock investors for three straight quarters with earnings growth of more than 20 percent. But profits for the three months that ended in December 1995, which companies will begin to disseminate in earnest this coming week, should show a much less impressive growth of 12 to 13 percent, analysts said.

"There is uncertainty about the level of earnings and the sustainability of these profit levels in the face of a very tenuous economy," said Ned Riley, chief investment officer, Bank of Boston. "The immediate problem is the economy itself."

Some early peeks at earnings for the final three months of the year were not encouraging. Ed Keon, a vice president at I/B/E/S Inc., a New York company that tracks earnings said his six chemical companies that have so far reported earnings in this cycle have had disappointing news.

After the close of trading Tuesday, Motorola posted a surprising 16 percent decline in fourth-quarter profits to 72 cents a share, well below analyst estimates of 90 cents.

Motorola's stock dropped more than 10 points in overnight trading on Tuesday but recovered some lost ground Wednesday and Thursday and ended Friday's session at 49 1/2, down 3/4.

On Wednesday, Apple Computer surprised analysts by forecasting a loss of \$68 million, or 55 cents per share, for the first quarter ended December 29. Apple's shares sank 2 3/4 in after-hours trading to 31 1/2 and finished the week at 33 7/8.

The stock market this past week was distracted from the earnings picture by national politics. The Dow Jones industrial average sank a total of 164 points on Tuesday and Wednesday, as President Clinton and the Republican congressional leadership continued to disagree about the federal budget. The Dow average closed Friday at 5,061.12, down 3.98 for the day and 120.31 for the week.

"A fax for you"
All you want to know about your accounts, on your fax, within 15 minutes.
15 minutes and you're gone...
ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (\$1.0M)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (250,000)	4.750	4.825	4.855
U.S. dollar (500,000)	4.750	4.800	4.800
U.S. dollar (1,000,000)	4.750	4.750	4.750
U.S. dollar (2,000,000)	4.750	4.750	4.750
U.S. dollar (5,000,000)	4.750	4.750	4.750
U.S. dollar (10,000,000)	4.750	4.750	4.750
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Argentina offers to protect Israeli envoy after report of death threat from Iran-backed groups

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - The Argentine government has offered Israel's ambassador increased protection after a report of a possible assassination attempt by Iranian groups, the official news agency Telam said Friday.

Interior Minister Carlos Corach called Ambassador Yitzhak Aviran following an Israel Television report that Iran had plans to assassinate Israeli and Jewish officials in various countries, including Aviran.

Aviran declined the stepped-up security offer.

He said, "If there were a serious threat against me, Jerusalem would have notified me," Telam reported.

In recent years, two deadly bomb attacks attributed to Iran-related terrorist groups destroyed the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires and Argentina's most important Jewish community center.

Twenty-eight people were killed and more than 200 wounded when a car bomb leveled the embassy in March 1992.

Two years later, in July 1994, a bomb destroyed the Jewish Mutual Association building.

At least 95 people were killed in the blast.

Both crimes remain unsolved.

Iran, apparently fearing an attack by Israel, had plans drawn up to bomb Israeli military installations and to assassinate Israeli and Jewish officials in various countries around the world, according to an Iranian intelligence

document obtained by Israel Television.

The broadcast said the document was drawn up after Israel convicted an Israeli, Herzl Rad, for spying for Iran, which feared harsh retaliation. It said the plans would be carried out if Israel attacked.

The document also included maps marking the locations of seven Israeli installations which Iran planned to bomb, believing them to be nuclear plants.

In addition to Ambassador

Rad, 31, denied any wrongdoing.

ITV said he was convicted on the charges.

According to the document, Rad had been kidnapped by Iran in Turkey, drugged and smuggled into Tehran in a coffin, where he was asked to assassinate then prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, the television report said.

He apparently refused.

But the document said he agreed to try to get into one of Israel's nuclear installations.

Rad's espionage case was revealed during a closed-door trial in August, apparently three months after he was arrested.

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WEATHER

Forecast: Clear. Rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	1995	1996
Alexandria	14	20	14	14
Buenos Aires	14	20	14	14
Chicago	14	20	14	14
London	14	20	14	14
Los Angeles	14	20	14	14
Madrid	14	20	14	14
Moscow	14	20	14	14
New York	14	20	14	14
Paris	14	20	14	14
Rome	14	20	14	14
Sydney	14	20	14	14
Tokyo	14	20	14	14
Zurich	14	20	14	14

Local councils plan shutdown

DAVID RUDGE

HEADS of local authorities throughout the country intend to demonstrate in Jerusalem today to protest against Finance Minister Avraham Shohar's proposals to cut the Interior Ministry's budget.

The demonstration opposite the Prime Minister's Office is slated to be followed tomorrow by a 24-hour shutdown of all municipal services in all Jewish and Arab councils.

The protests are being organized in conjunction with the Union of Local Authorities which maintains that the dire financial straits of many councils will be worsened if the proposed budget cuts are approved.

Hussein Saleiman, spokesman for the Forum of Arab Council Heads, said dozens of local authorities in the Arab sector were so short of funds they had been unable to pay the wages of municipal workers for last month.

"The situation is even more desperate in some areas where council employees have not been paid for several months," said Saleiman, who is chairman of Mas'had local council near Nazareth.

He said the Arab council heads were still waiting for the government to fulfill its previous pledge to consolidate the deficits, altogether totaling around NIS 140 million, of the 53 Arab councils.

Saleiman said they had also been promised that a committee investigating ways of bringing the regular and development budgets of Arab councils into line with those allocated to Jewish authorities was due to submit its findings next month.

"The financial situation of all the councils will obviously be badly affected by any cuts in the Interior Ministry budget and especially Arab councils which are already suffering from severe problems," he added.

The head of the Knesset's social caucus, MK Shaul Amur (Likud), is calling on Prime Minister Shimon Peres to devote today's cabinet session to the economic crisis in development towns and finding funds to rescue factories on the verge of closing down in the towns.

Meanwhile in Oslo, Norway said over the weekend that it was checking charges that it failed to return millions of dollars in property, businesses and bank accounts confiscated from Jews during World War II.

"We have done a preliminary investigation," Justice Ministry Secretary-General Rachel Surlin said. "We will now contact the Jewish community here for help in clarifying these issues."

The World Jewish Congress said Wednesday in New York that a study of Norwegian archives showed that "Many Norwegians, not all of them Nazis, lined their pockets at the Jews' expense."

HERUT Lapid, head of the Kibbutz Prisoner Rehabilitation Program, is to visit India in the next few weeks in an effort to secure the release of a young Israeli being held there on drug charges.

Iran, Wilendah, 26, of Kibbutz Merhavia, was arrested in Goa, on suspicion of drug dealing after he was caught allegedly carrying 100 grams of hashish.

Police said they found a further half-kilogram of hashish hidden in his motorcycle, giving rise to the suspicion of drug dealing.

"Wilendah maintains that he had borrowed the motorcycle in order to take part in the New Year's Eve celebrations in Goa and was due to return it the following day," said Lapid.

"He said he knew nothing about the drugs on the motorcycle and that the 100 gm. found in his possession was for his personal use. I believe him," said Lapid, who has been asked by Wilendah's family for help.

Lapid has secured the release of scores of Israelis from jails both here and abroad and incorporated them into the rehabilitation program, which entails working and living on kibbutzim.

The program has become world-renowned since it was established by Lapid in 1978.

Lapid said that Wilendah could face between five to 25 years in prison in India if he is convicted of drug dealing.

"I intend to go over there soon and speak with the prosecution and officials dealing with the case, explain to them about the rehabilitation program and try and get him released into my custody," said Lapid.

Polgat reaches severance agreement for Ouman workers

MICHAL YUDELMAN

HISTADRUT Chairman MK Amir Peretz will suggest to Polgat's management today that it transfer the Ouman textile plant to the Histadrut, which will operate it with the workers until a private entrepreneur is found to purchase it.

The Histadrut and Polgat reached an agreement over the weekend on severance fees for the workers.

Peretz is in contact with entrepreneurs who are prepared to re-open the Ofakim plant immediately. If a price can be agreed upon, Ouman could be reopened this week.

Ouman is estimated to be worth around \$3 million.

The sides agreed on severance fees of 145% to 195% of

the workers and early retirement for those close to retirement age. Fifty workers employed on personal contracts have already been fired. The plant closed on December 22.

The negotiations over severance fees were mired over the workers' demand for 250%, and Polgat's resistance to paying more than

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President Ezer Weizman... (AP)

Row over Nazi victims; pensions may taint Weizman visit

BONN (Reuters) - Opposition Social Democrats (SPD) lashed out at the German government last week for failing to ensure that German Jews driven from homes in Eastern Europe by the Nazis get the pensions they deserve.

The controversy threatened to cast a shadow over the state visit by President Ezer Weizman that begins today.

The German authorities were reported to be taking special security precautions to protect Weizman during his visit, which will include stops at several Holocaust-related sites.

He is to address the German parliament on Tuesday, and will be only the third foreign leader to do so after US president Ronald

Reagan and French president Francois Mitterrand.

On Friday, during his visit to the Czech Republic, Weizman and Czech President Vaclav Havel visited the concentration camp at Theresienstadt, north of Prague.

The controversy last week related to agreements Germany signed last year that promised to provide pensions to some 35,000 surviving Jewish ethnic Germans, mostly from Romania and Latvia, who were driven out by the Nazis in World War II and now live in the US and Israel.

But parliamentary ratification of the accords, which were first

proposed in 1989, has been held up by a row within Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democrats about where the money should come from. "We consider this to be foreign policy territory of the first degree and an abomination towards those affected," the SPD's Rudolf Scharping told German radio.

A government spokesman told reporters the payment of the pensions was not at issue, only the question of which pot it should come from.

"There's no doubt that it will come about and so we don't expect any irritation during Weizman's visit," one government official added.

Meanwhile in Oslo, Norway said over the weekend that it was checking charges that it failed to return millions of dollars in property, businesses and bank accounts confiscated from Jews during World War II.

"We have done a preliminary investigation," Justice Ministry Secretary-General Rachel Surlin said. "We will now contact the Jewish community here for help in clarifying these issues."

The World Jewish Congress said Wednesday in New York that a study of Norwegian archives showed that "Many Norwegians, not all of them Nazis, lined their pockets at the Jews' expense."

HERUT Lapid, head of the Kibbutz Prisoner Rehabilitation Program, is to visit India in the next few weeks in an effort to secure the release of a young Israeli being held there on drug charges.

Iran, Wilendah, 26, of Kibbutz Merhavia, was arrested in Goa, on suspicion of drug dealing after he was caught allegedly carrying 100 grams of hashish.

Police said they found a further half-kilogram of hashish hidden in his motorcycle, giving rise to the suspicion of drug dealing.

"Wilendah maintains that he had borrowed the motorcycle in order to take part in the New Year's Eve celebrations in Goa and was due to return it the following day," said Lapid.

"He said he knew nothing about the drugs on the motorcycle and that the 100 gm. found in his possession was for his personal use. I believe him," said Lapid, who has been asked by Wilendah's family for help.

Lapid has secured the release of scores of Israelis from jails both here and abroad and incorporated them into the rehabilitation program, which entails working and living on kibbutzim.

The program has become world-renowned since it was established by Lapid in 1978.

Lapid said that Wilendah could face between five to 25 years in prison in India if he is convicted of drug dealing.

"I intend to go over there soon and speak with the prosecution and officials dealing with the case, explain to them about the rehabilitation program and try and get him released into my custody," said Lapid.

Amital: Israel must extend aid to Diaspora Jewish communities

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE time has come for Israel to ask itself not only "what it can receive from the Diaspora, but also how it can aid Diaspora Jewish communities in their struggle for continued Jewish existence," Minister without Portfolio Yehuda Amital said last week in Moscow.

Amital was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Russian Jewish Congress on behalf of the government.

He said that although no Jewish community faces an existential danger, and Israel is not threatened with war, the Jewish people around the world, nevertheless, face a grave threat.

"Our obligation is to develop in every Jew - both in Israel and the Diaspora - feelings of belonging with the Jewish people, as well as an understanding of the significance of this belonging. We must go back and develop the basic feelings of love for Jewish people and brotherly relations toward every Jew," Amital said.

Herut Lapid vows to help Israeli held in India on drug charges

DAVID RUDGE

HERUT Lapid, head of the Kibbutz Prisoner Rehabilitation Program, is to visit India in the next few weeks in an effort to secure the release of a young Israeli being held there on drug charges.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Work starts on Jordan Valley science center
Work is to start soon on the construction of a science and technology center in the Jordan Valley, which will educate thousands of students in the region, including students from Jordan.

The cornerstone for the new \$8.6 million center, which will be part of the existing Jordan Valley College, was laid last week in the presence of Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg and Jordan Valley regional council head Ze'ev Shore. *David Rudge*

Wiesenthal Center: Restrict Internet access
Hoping to combat hate groups' unlimited use of the Internet, the Simon Wiesenthal Center is asking Internet access providers to censor materials that "promote racism, antisemitism, mayhem and violence."

Internet providers have a moral obligation not to supply hate groups with a platform for "their destructive propaganda," the center said in Los Angeles last week.

Some civil liberties groups assailed the center's proposal, saying it restricts free speech. US legislators have been grappling with how to restrict offensive material on the international computer network. *Marilyn Henry*

Bogus fertility drugs discovered
The Teva pharmaceutical company has discovered counterfeit fertility drugs being sold in Ramallah, the Health Ministry announced. The drugs were labeled as "Pergonal."

Ministry director-general Dr. Meir Oren reported the incident to the Palestinian Authority's health services director, Dr. Riyadh Za'anoun.

Women undergoing Pergonal treatments should check their packages. The counterfeit ones have the serial number 978423 near the letters EXP. and the numbers 02/98 near the letters LOT. These are impressed into the packages without ink (unlike Teva's real packages).

Whoever finds bogus packages should call Teva at 177-022-6506. *Judy Siegel*

Uri Geller searching for heir via Internet
Uri Geller, who has traveled the world with his psychic spoon-bending and watch-stopping act, is now cruising the information superhighway searching for an heir. Geller said on Thursday he was offering \$1 million to anyone who could bend a spoon locked in a safe in front of a camera at his home near London.

Anyone with Internet access - Geller's Worldwide Web site is <http://www.uri-geller.com> - can see the spoon on his computer screen.

"If someone succeeds in doing it they will be more powerful than me, that's definite," Geller told Army Radio. "I really would be happy to transfer the crown to someone else." *Reuter*

Olga Grunzweig dies
Olga Grunzweig, the mother of Peace Now activist Emil Grunzweig, who was murdered during a Jerusalem demonstration in 1983 - died Thursday night of injuries sustained when she was hit by a car in Haifa. She was 73.

Police said the accident occurred on Wednesday night when she was crossing a street on the Carmel. *Itim*

Grenade planted at non-kosher meat shop
Police sappers defused a grenade placed outside a non-kosher meat shop in Arad on Friday morning.

When the owner arrived at his store in the city's main shopping area, he found a plastic bag tacked to the door with a grenade and a written death threat inside. He called the police and sappers defused the bomb without incident. *Itim*

Woman in coma after having seventh child
A Jerusalem woman is still in a coma more than a week after delivering her seventh child. The woman, 42, had gone to Misgav Ladach Hospital to give birth via caesarean section - her seventh. The baby was a boy, born after six girls.

The delivery passed without complications, but shortly afterward she lost consciousness. She was rushed to Hadassah-University Hospital, where tests showed the coma had been caused by an amniotic fluid embolism - some amniotic fluid had traveled through the bloodstream into the lungs, where it caused a blockage. This condition is extremely rare and cannot be predicted or prevented. *Judy Siegel*

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